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PK

ADVENTURES PAPERINIK NEW

METAMORPHOSIS

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PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

METAMORPHOSIS

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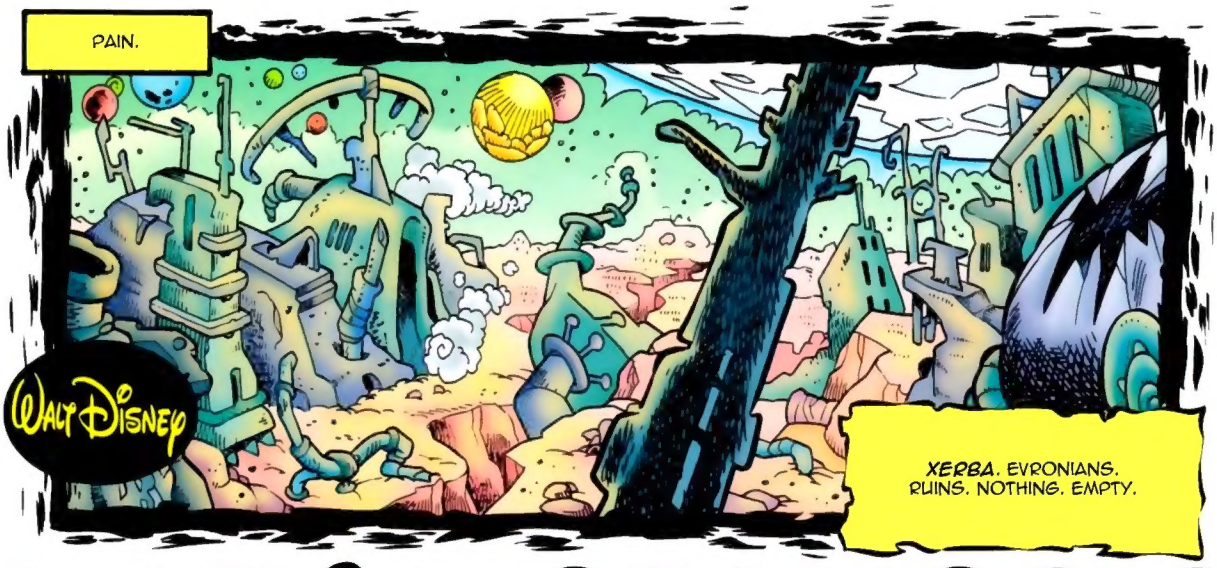
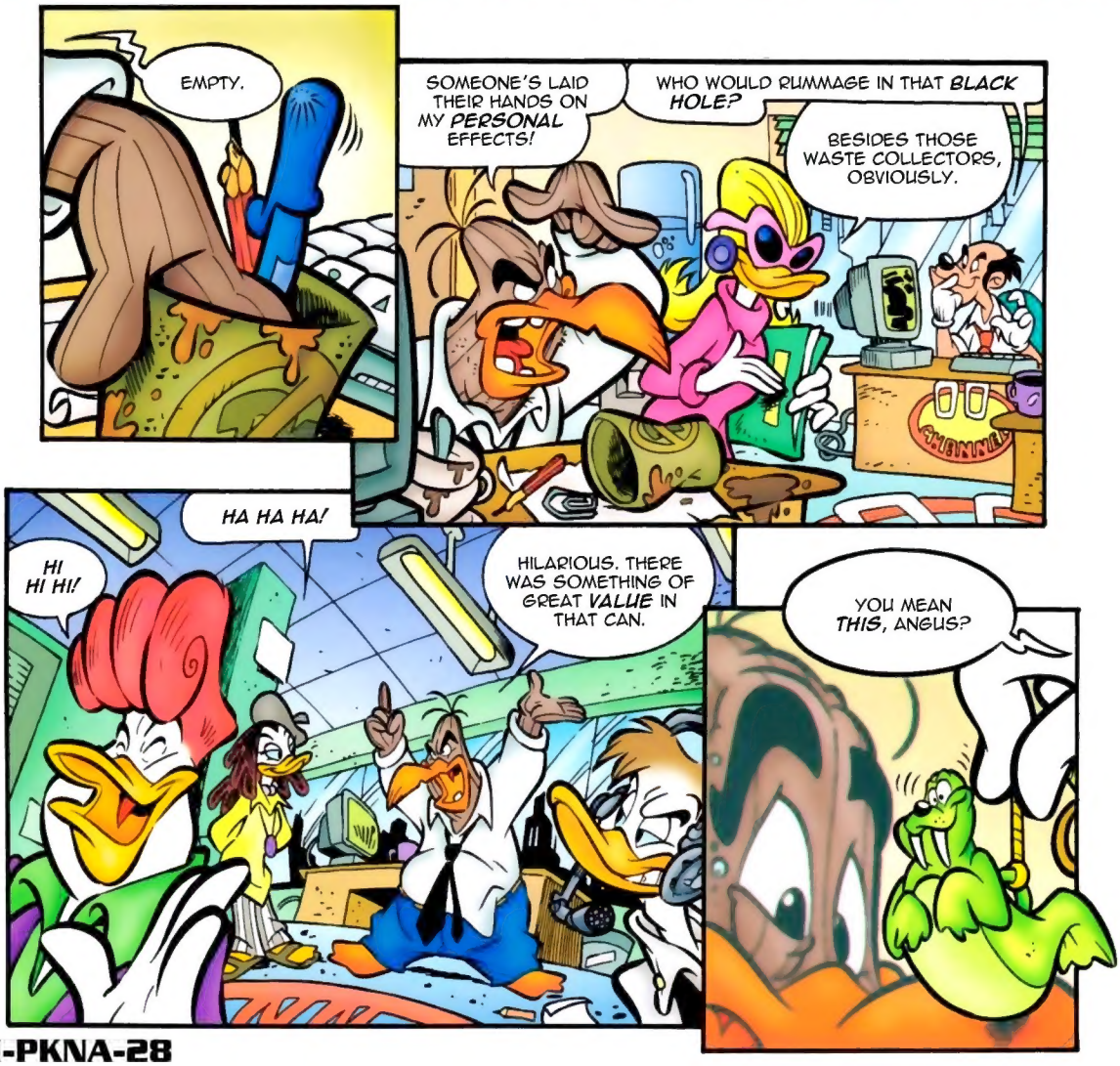
CHANGES

Open your hands. Spread your legs. Distend your mind. Your thoughts, lying on the gray floor of your hypomorphic brain, flapping in the wind like wet cloth. You're ready for change. Nothing will be as before. Life is like this: when you're convinced that the Great Wheel is always turning in the same direction, when you begin to appreciate the perfume of fodder and find pleasure in newspaper sheets in the corner of a cage, where a big hand opens the metal door and everything changes. Will you be inserted in a genetic manipulation project? Will you finally be given an equal to be friends with? Will the water be replaced?
It is unknown: the beauty of changes is that they change, time to time.
On your part, distend your mind... and shout "the dooor!".



METAMORPHOSIS


EMPTY.
SOMEONE'S LAID THEIR HANDS ON MY PERSONAL EFFECTS!
WHO WOULD RUMMAGE IN THAT BLACK HOLE?
BESIDES THOSE WASTE COLLECTORS, OBVIOUSLY.
HA HA HA!
HI HI HI!
HILARIOUS. THERE WAS SOMETHING OF GREAT VALUE IN THAT CAN.
YOU MEAN THIS, ANGUS?

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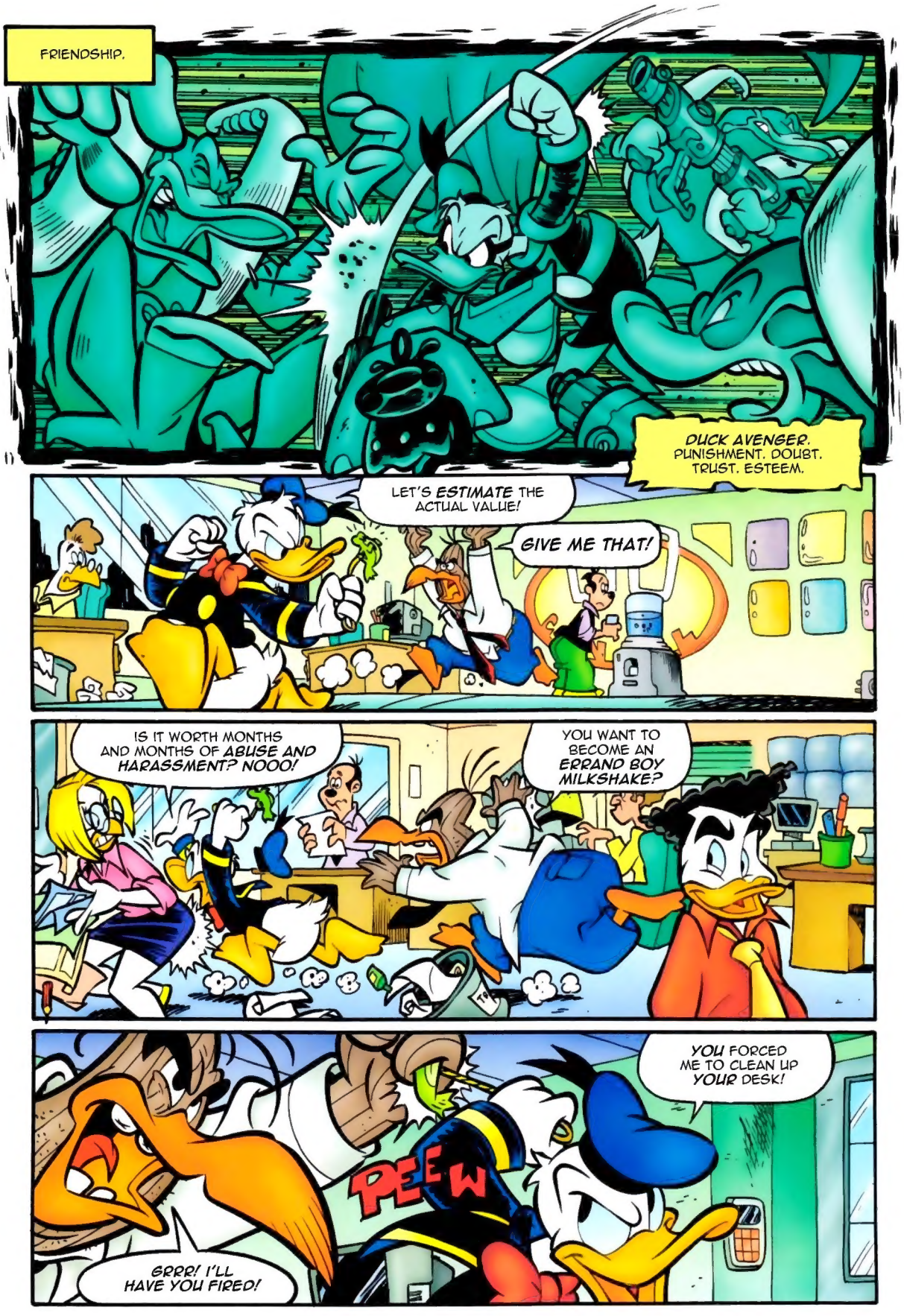
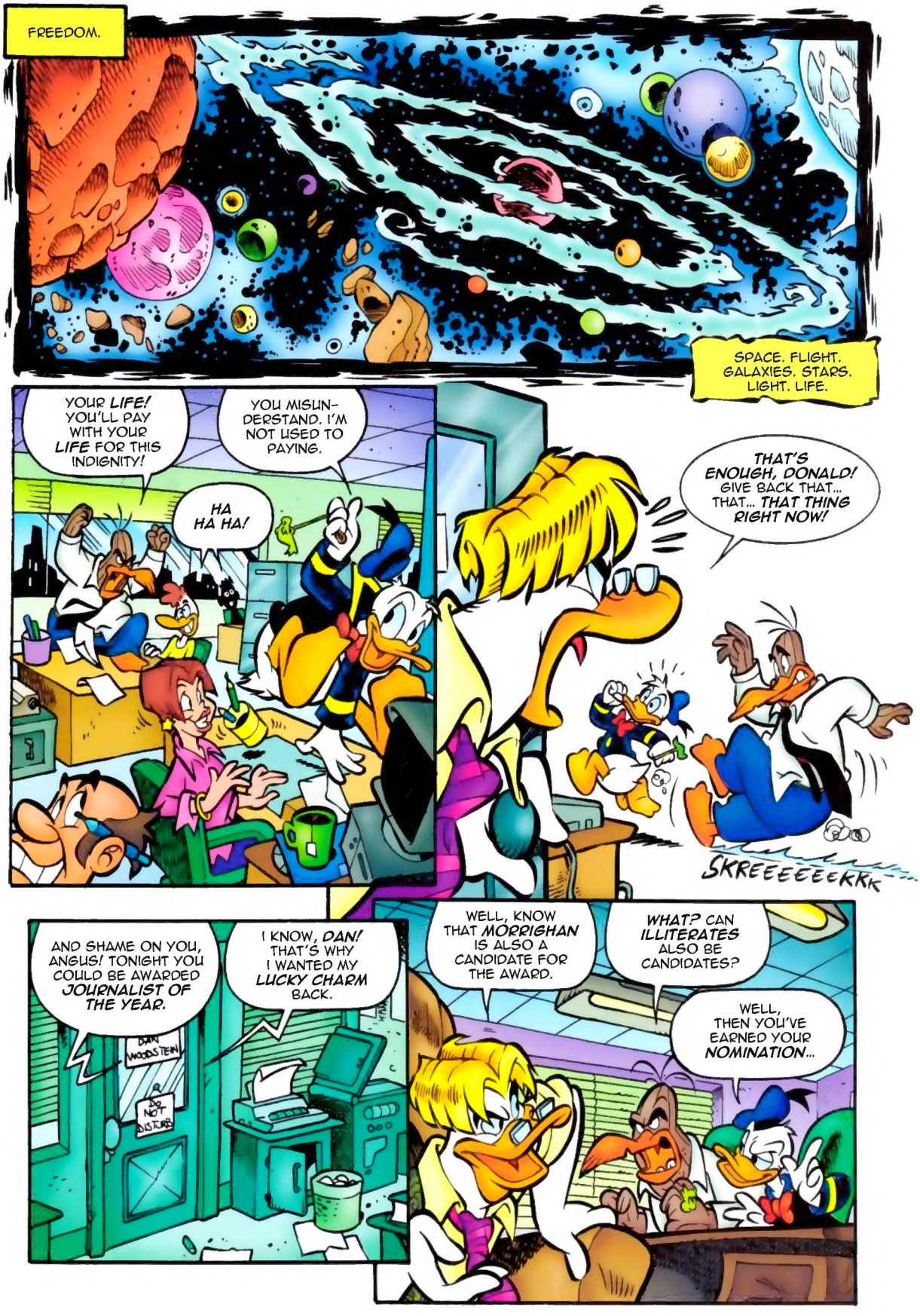
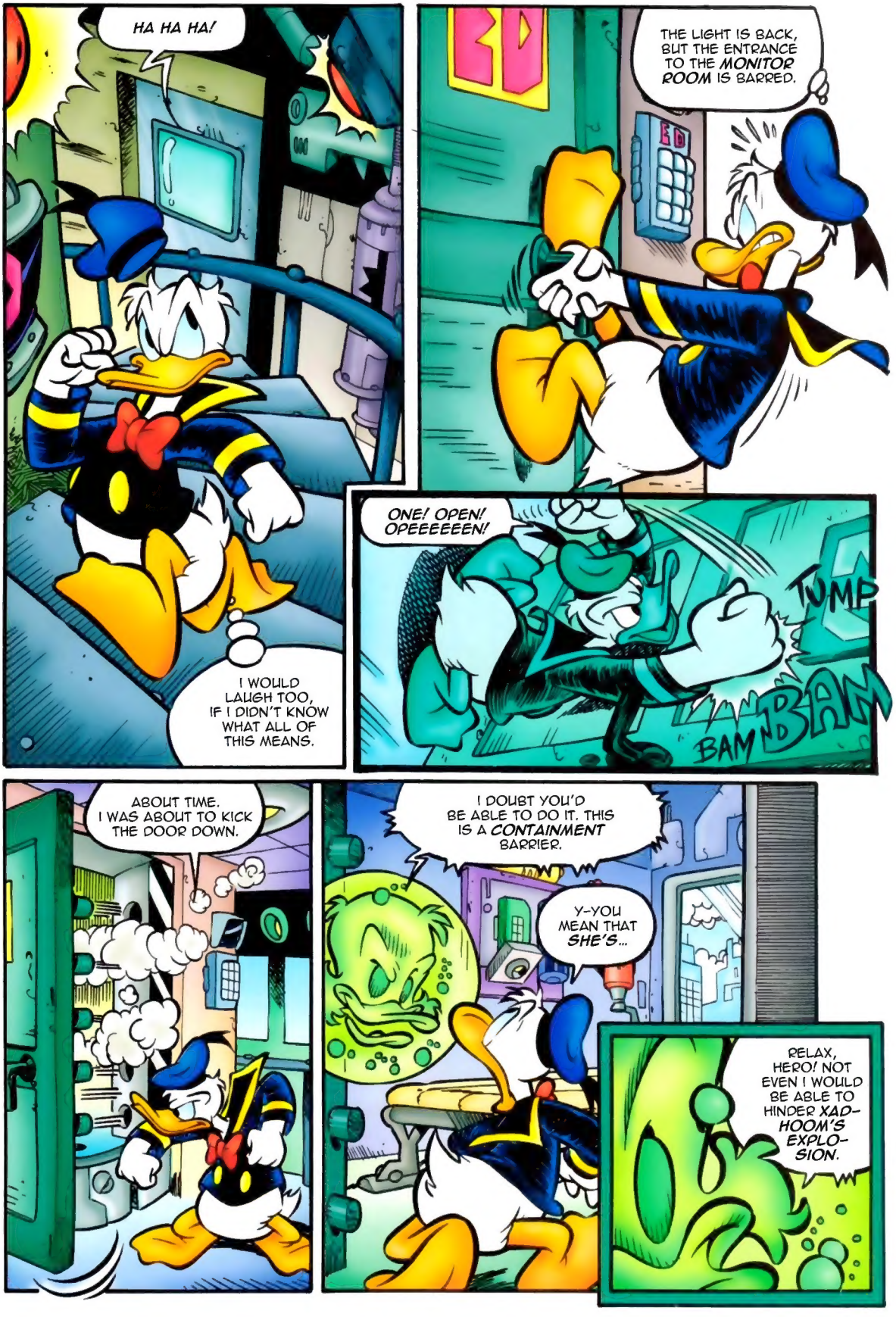
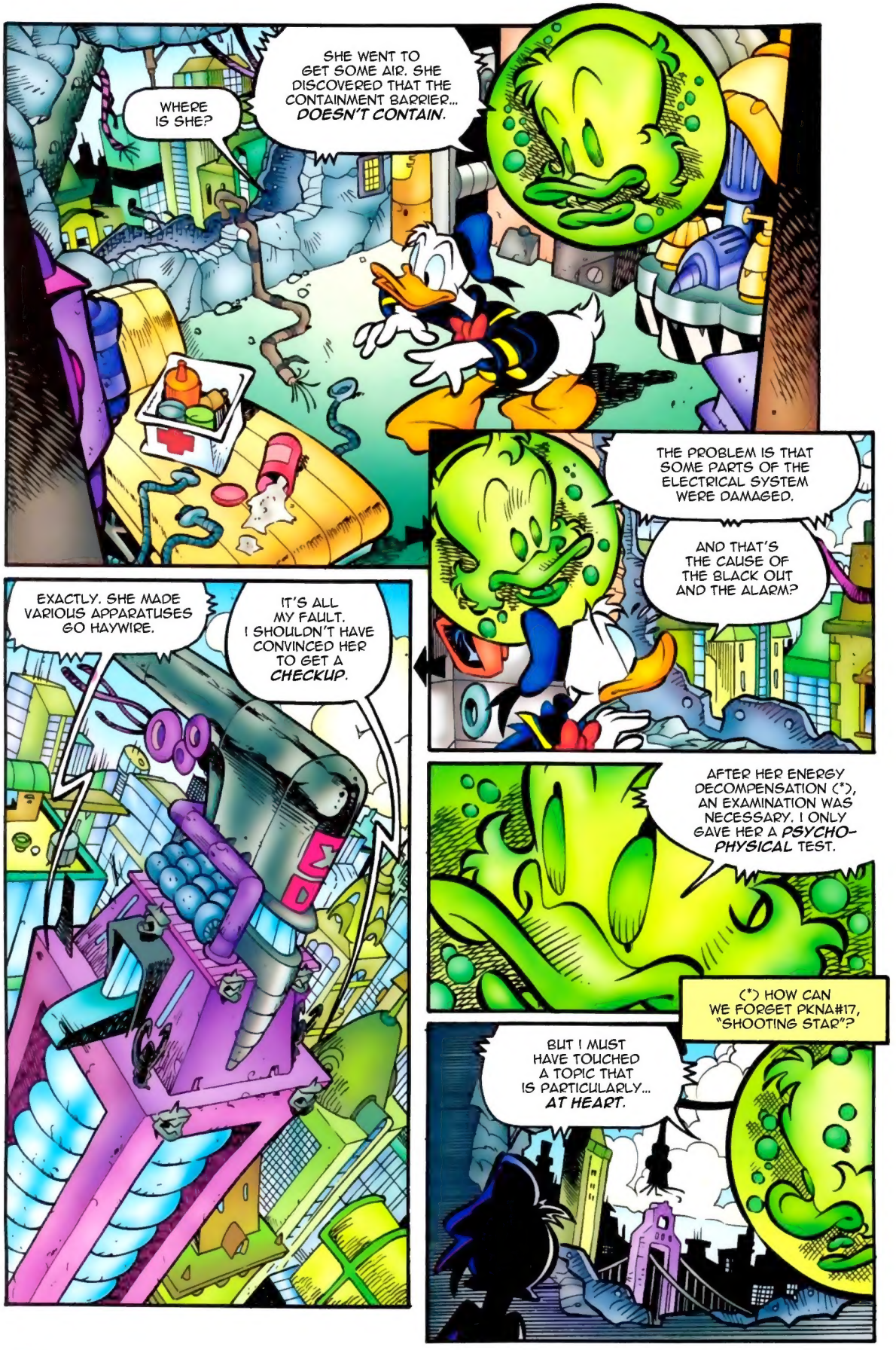
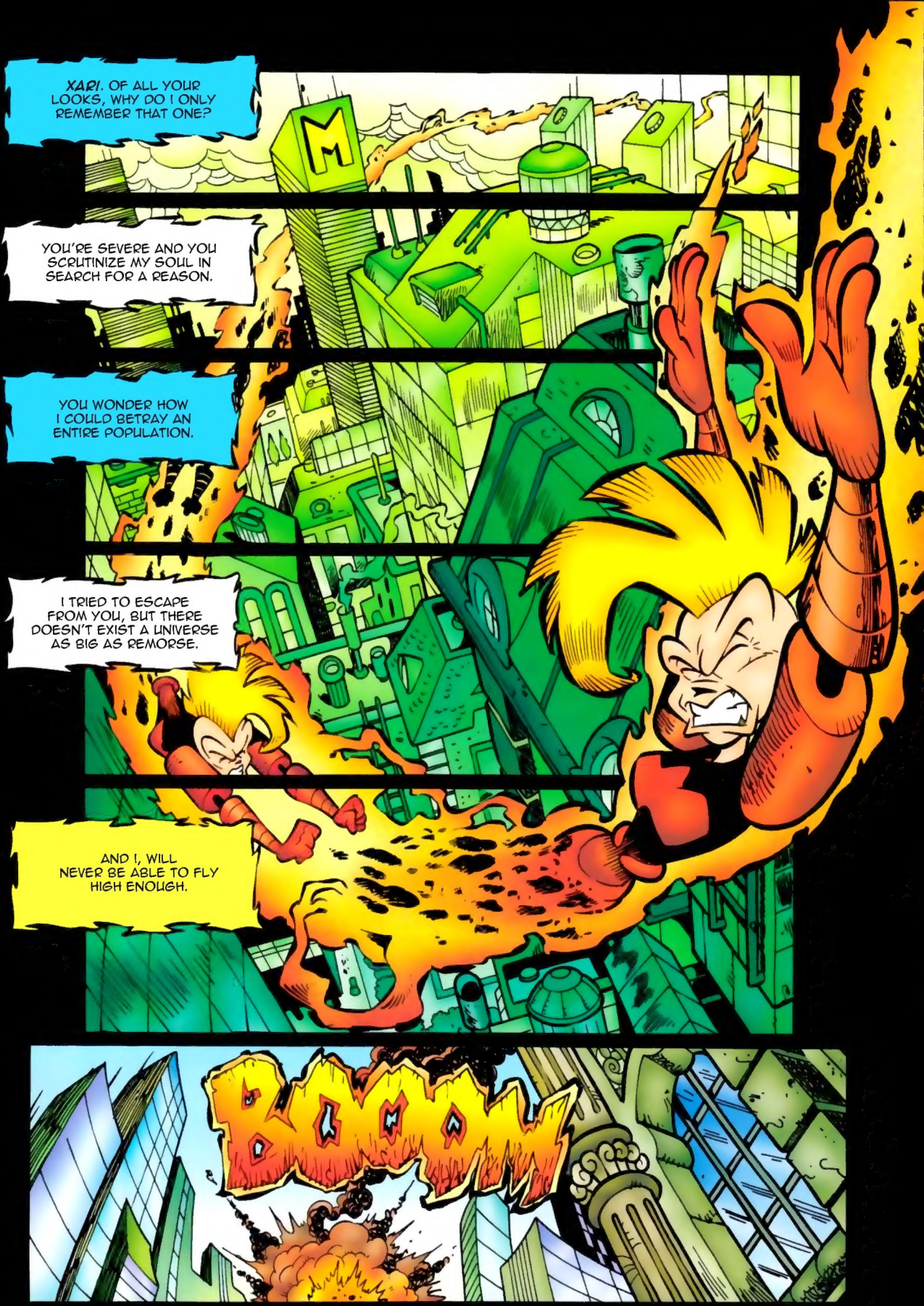

FRIENDSHIP.
DUCK AVENGER. PUNISHMENT. DOUBT. TRUST. ESTEEM.
LET'S ESTIMATE THE ACTUAL VALUE!
GIVE ME THAT!
IS IT WORTH MONTHS AND MONTHS OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT? NOOO!
YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ERRAND BOY MILKSHAKE?
PEEW
YOU FORCED ME TO CLEAN UP YOUR DESK!
GRRR! I'LL HAVE YOU FIRED!

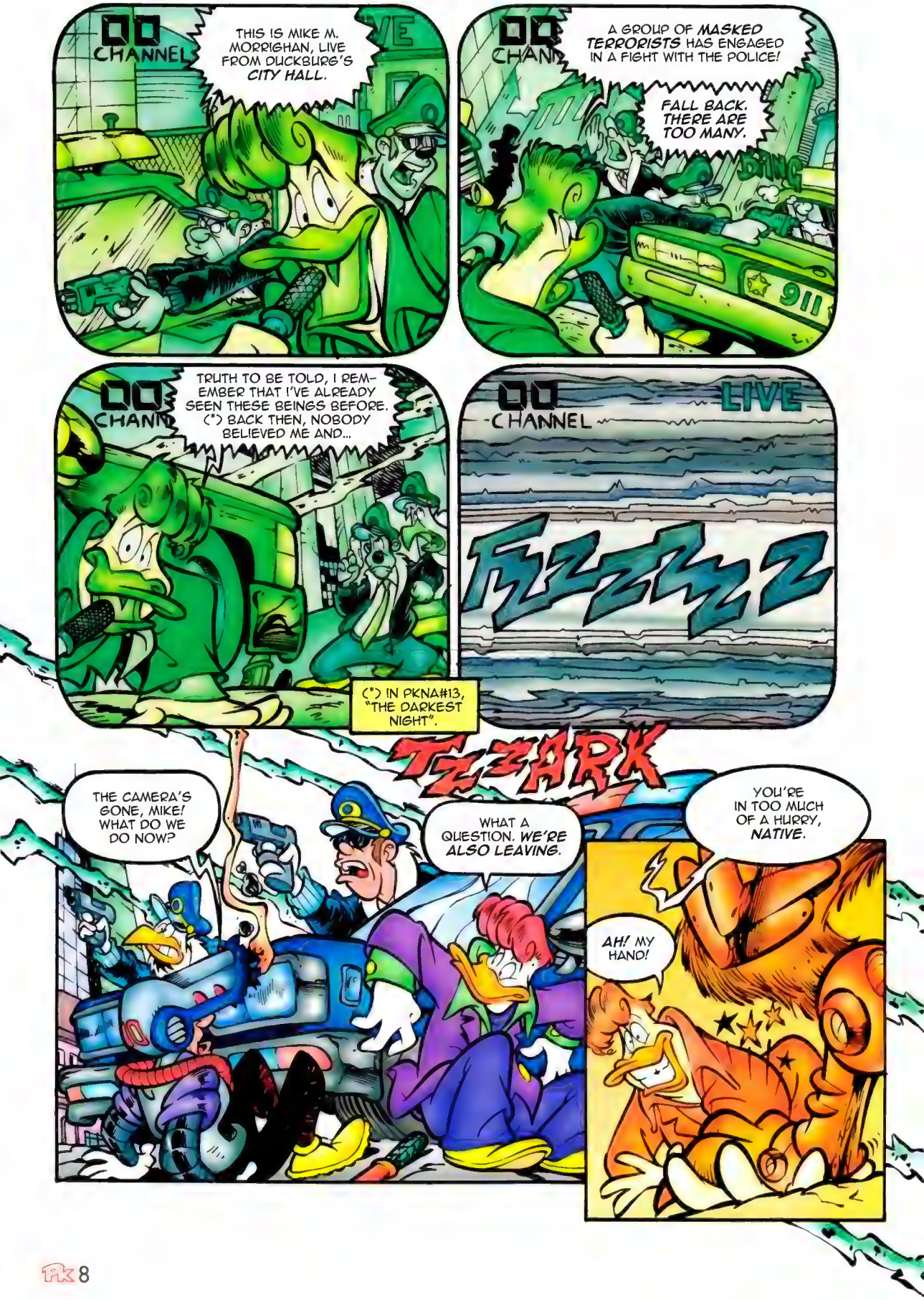

FREEDOM.
SPACE. FLIGHT. GALAXIES. STARS. LIGHT. LIFE.
YOUR LIFE! YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE FOR THIS INDIGNITY!
YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I'M NOT USED TO PAYING.
HA HA HA!
THAT'S ENOUGH, DONALD! GIVE BACK THAT... THAT... THAT THING RIGHT NOW!
SKREEEEEEKKK
AND SHAME ON YOU, ANGUS! TONIGHT YOU COULD BE AWARDED JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR.
I KNOW, DAN! THAT'S WHY I WANTED MY LUCKY CHARM BACK.
DAN WOODSTEIN
DO NOT DISTURB
WELL, KNOW THAT MORRIGHAN IS ALSO A CANDIDATE FOR THE AWARD.
WHAT? CAN ILLITERATES ALSO BE CANDIDATES?
WELL, THEN YOU'VE EARNED YOUR NOMINATION...

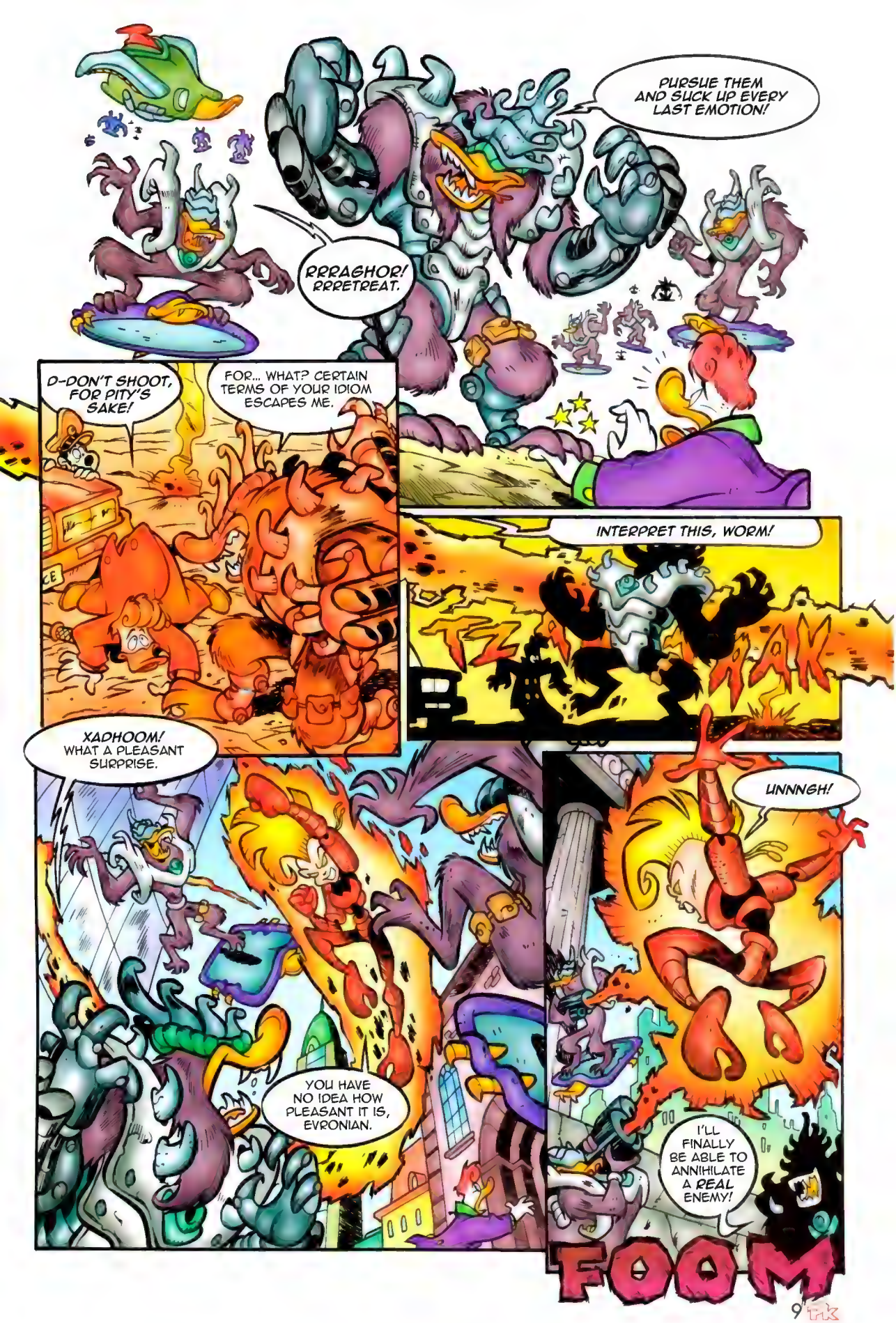
LOVE.
LOVE.
XARI. TORMENT. CEASE. CEASEEE...
WHAT THE...
SOUNDS LIKE AN ALARM. WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
HEY! THE LIGHTS WENT OUT!
LOOK! THE WALRUS ALSO GLOWS IN THE DARK!
SIGH!

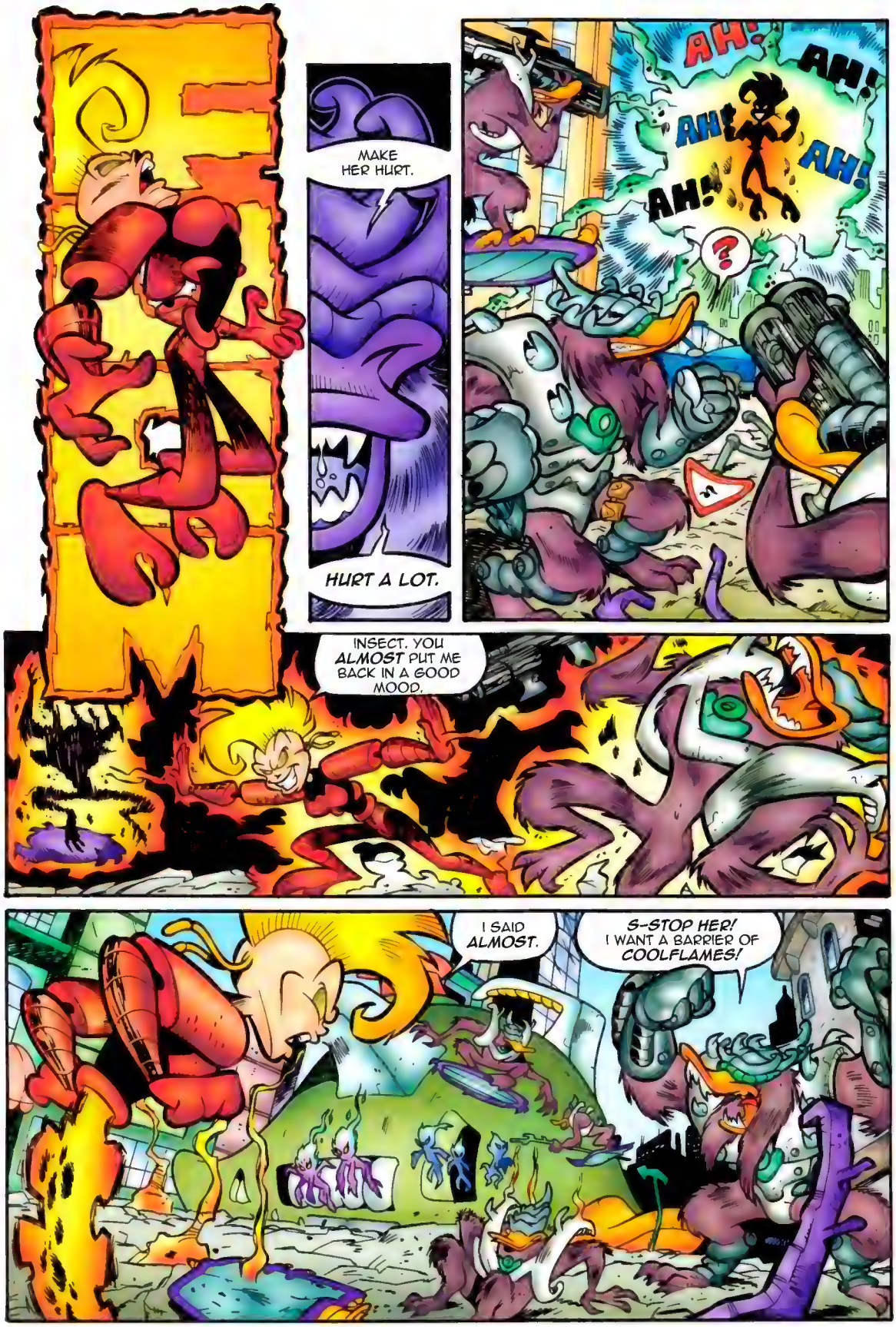

HA HA HA!
I WOULD LAUGH TOO, IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ALL OF THIS MEANS.
THE LIGHT IS BACK, BUT THE ENTRANCE TO THE MONITOR ROOM IS BARRED.
ONE! OPEN! OPEEEEEEN!
TUMP
BAM
BAM
ABOUT TIME. I WAS ABOUT TO KICK THE DOOR DOWN.
I DOUBT YOU'D BE ABLE TO DO IT. THIS IS A CONTAINMENT BARRIER.
Y-YOU MEAN THAT SHE'S...
RELAX, HERO! NOT EVEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO HINDER XADHOOM'S EXPLOSION.

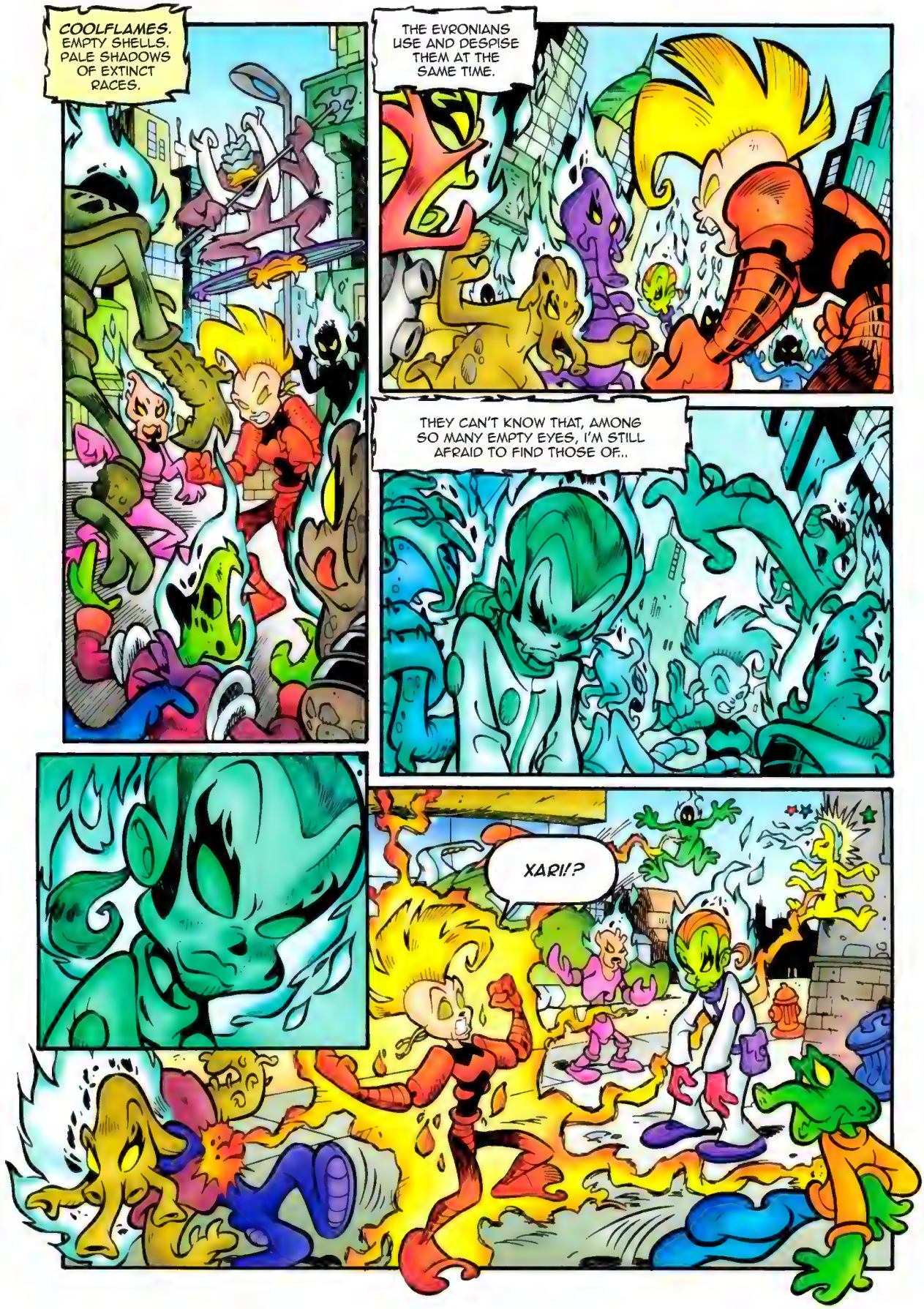

WHERE IS SHE?
SHE WENT TO GET SOME AIR. SHE DISCOVERED THAT THE CONTAINMENT BARRIER... DOESN'T CONTAIN.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT SOME PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WERE DAMAGED.
AND THAT'S THE CAUSE OF THE BLACK OUT AND THE ALARM?
EXACTLY. SHE MADE VARIOUS APPARATUSES GO HAYWIRE.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CONVINCED HER TO GET A CHECKUP.
AFTER HER ENERGY DECOMPENSATION (*), AN EXAMINATION WAS NECESSARY. I ONLY GAVE HER A PSYCHO-PHYSICAL TEST.
(*) HOW CAN WE FORGET PKNA#17, "SHOOTING STAR"?
BUT I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A TOPIC THAT IS PARTICULARLY... AT HEART.

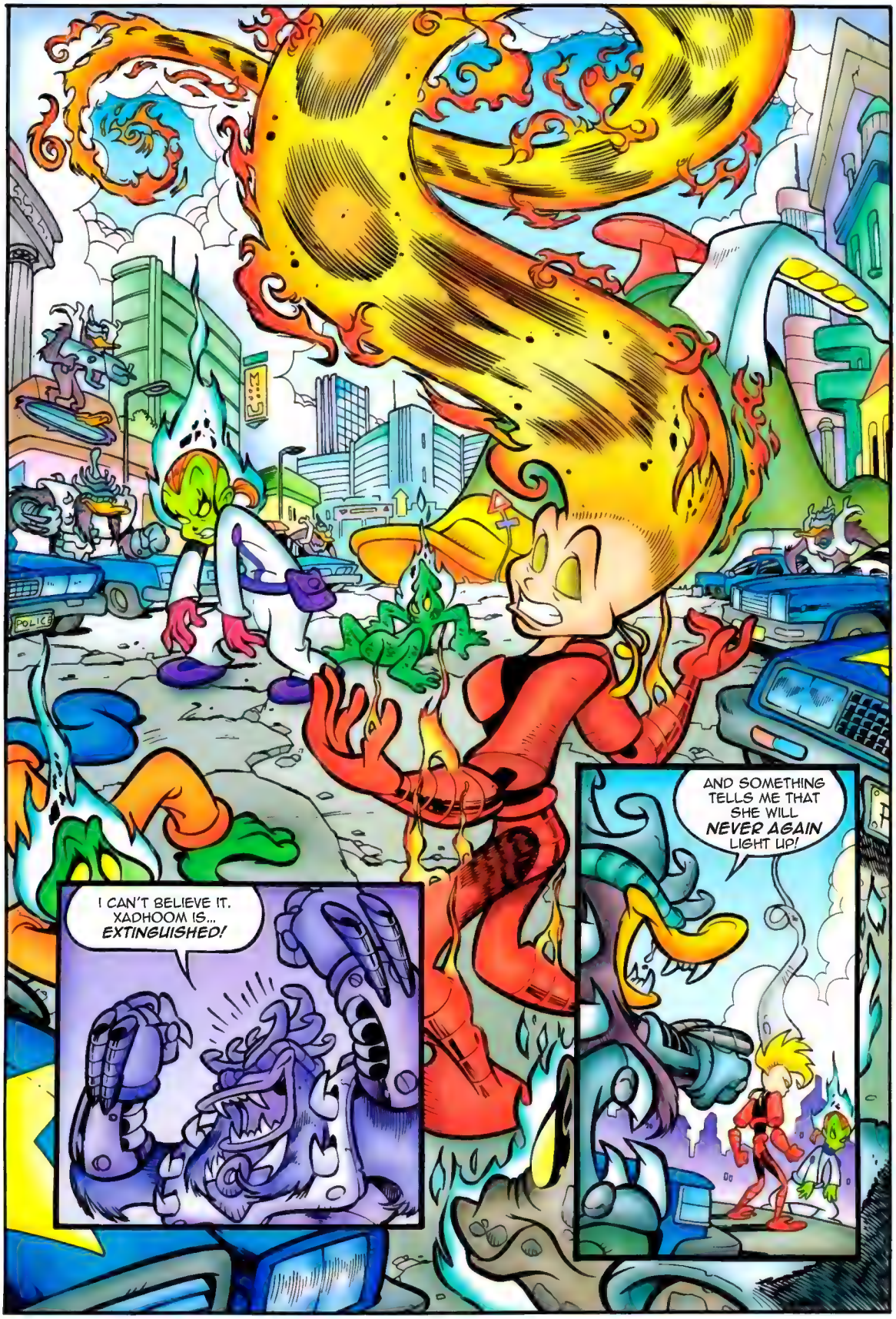

XARI. OF ALL YOUR LOOKS, WHY DO I ONLY REMEMBER THAT ONE?
YOU'RE SEVERE AND YOU SCRUTINIZE MY SOUL IN SEARCH FOR A REASON.
YOU WONDER HOW I COULD BETRAY AN ENTIRE POPULATION.
I TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM YOU, BUT THERE DOESN'T EXIST A UNIVERSE AS BIG AS REMORSE.
AND I, WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FLY HIGH ENOUGH.
BOOOM


CHANNEL
THIS IS MIKE M. MORRIGHAN, LIVE FROM DUCKBURG'S CITY HALL.
A GROUP OF MASKED TERRORISTS HAS ENGAGED IN A FIGHT WITH THE POLICE!
FALL BACK. THERE ARE TOO MANY.
911
TRUTH TO BE TOLD, I REMEMBER THAT I'VE ALREADY SEEN THESE BEINGS BEFORE. (*) BACK THEN, NOBODY BELIEVED ME AND...
LIVE
FZZZZ
(*) IN PKNA#13, "THE DARKEST NIGHT".
TZZARK
THE CAMERA'S GONE, MIKE! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHAT A QUESTION. WE'RE ALSO LEAVING.
YOU'RE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY, NATIVE.
AH! MY HAND!


PURSUE THEM AND SUCK UP EVERY LAST EMOTION!
RRRAGHOR! RRRETREAT.
D-DON'T SHOOT, FOR PITY'S SAKE!
FOR... WHAT? CERTAIN TERMS OF YOUR IDIOM ESCAPES ME.
INTERPRET THIS, WORM!
TZAK
XADHOOM! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW PLEASANT IT IS, EVRONIAN.
UNNNGH!
I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ANNIHILATE A REAL ENEMY!
FOOM


MAKE HER HURT.
HURT A LOT.
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
?
INSECT. YOU ALMOST PUT ME BACK IN A GOOD MOOD.
I SAID ALMOST.
S-STOP HER! I WANT A BARRIER OF COOLFLAMES!


COOLFLAMES. EMPTY SHELLS. PALE SHADOWS OF EXTINCT RACES.
THE EVRONIANS USE AND DESPISE THEM AT THE SAME TIME.
THEY CAN'T KNOW THAT, AMONG SO MANY EMPTY EYES, I'M STILL AFRAID TO FIND THOSE OF..
XARI!?


POLICE
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. XADHOOM IS... EXTINGUISHED!
AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT SHE WILL NEVER AGAIN LIGHT UP!

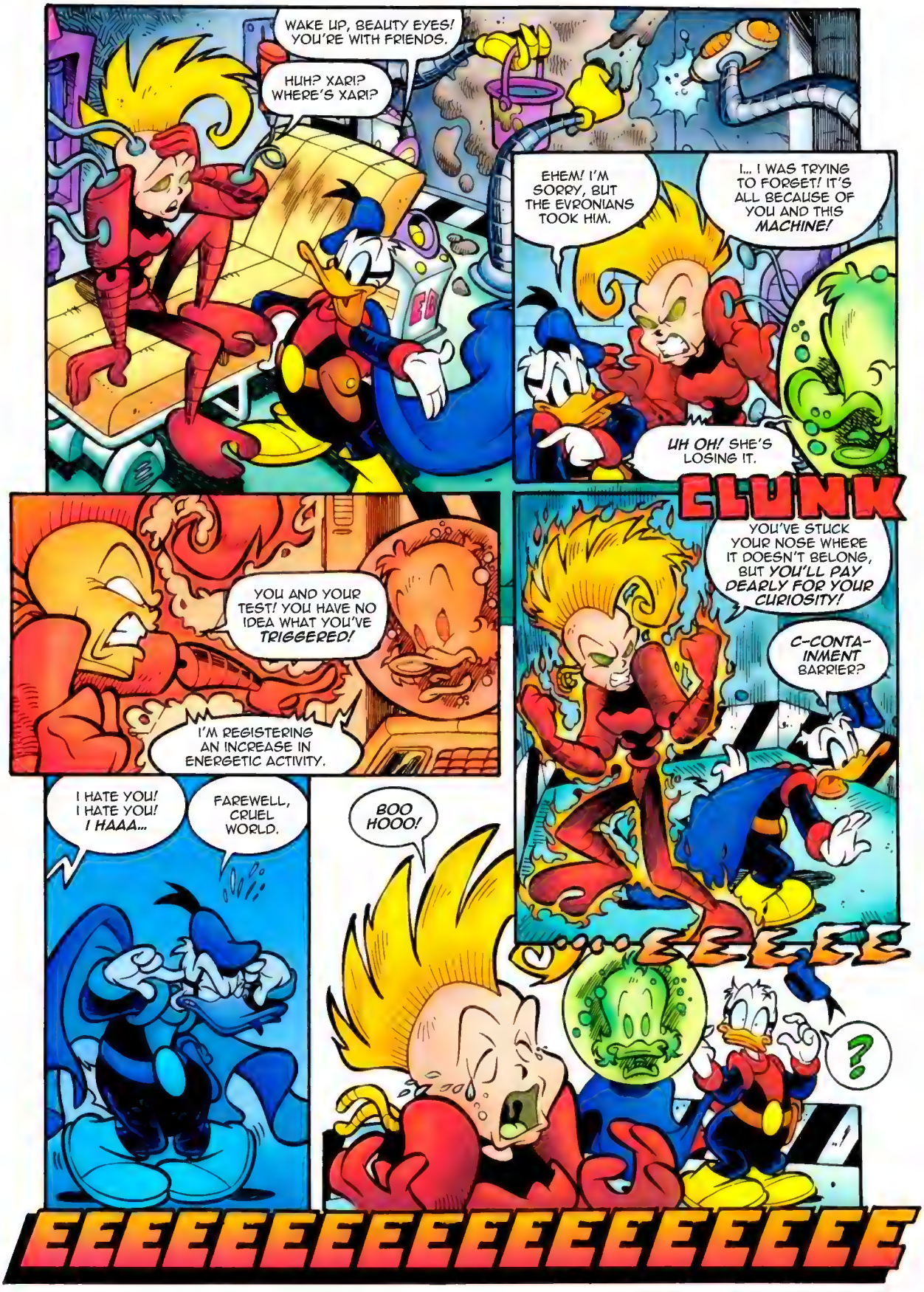
DO YOU HEAR LITTLE VOICES OR IS IT JUST INTUITION?
AAARGH!
WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU, XAD-HOOM?
HE... HE IS...
IS MINE! FIRE AWAY!
NOOO!
GET DOWN!
TTZAARK
SOCK
USUALLY IN CASES LIKE THIS, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVES ME...
HIS EYES. HIS...
... BUT THIS TIME I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION. IT'S UP TO YOU, PARTNER.
RECEIVED. HERE COMES THE CAVALRY.

DUCKBURG CENTER
♪ TA-TAAA- TA-TAAA... ♪
ONE! WHAT IS THAT MUSIC?
I SAMPLED THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET OF THE SEVENTH CAVALRY... HUH?
YAAAGRRR!
THUMP
INSTEAD OF SINGING, HELP ME OUT. THESE EVRONIANS ARE TOUGHER THAN EXPECTED!
CRUNCH
GRAAAOUUUR!
I'VE NOTICED. I'M AFRAID THAT THESE AREN'T SIMPLE EVRONIANS!

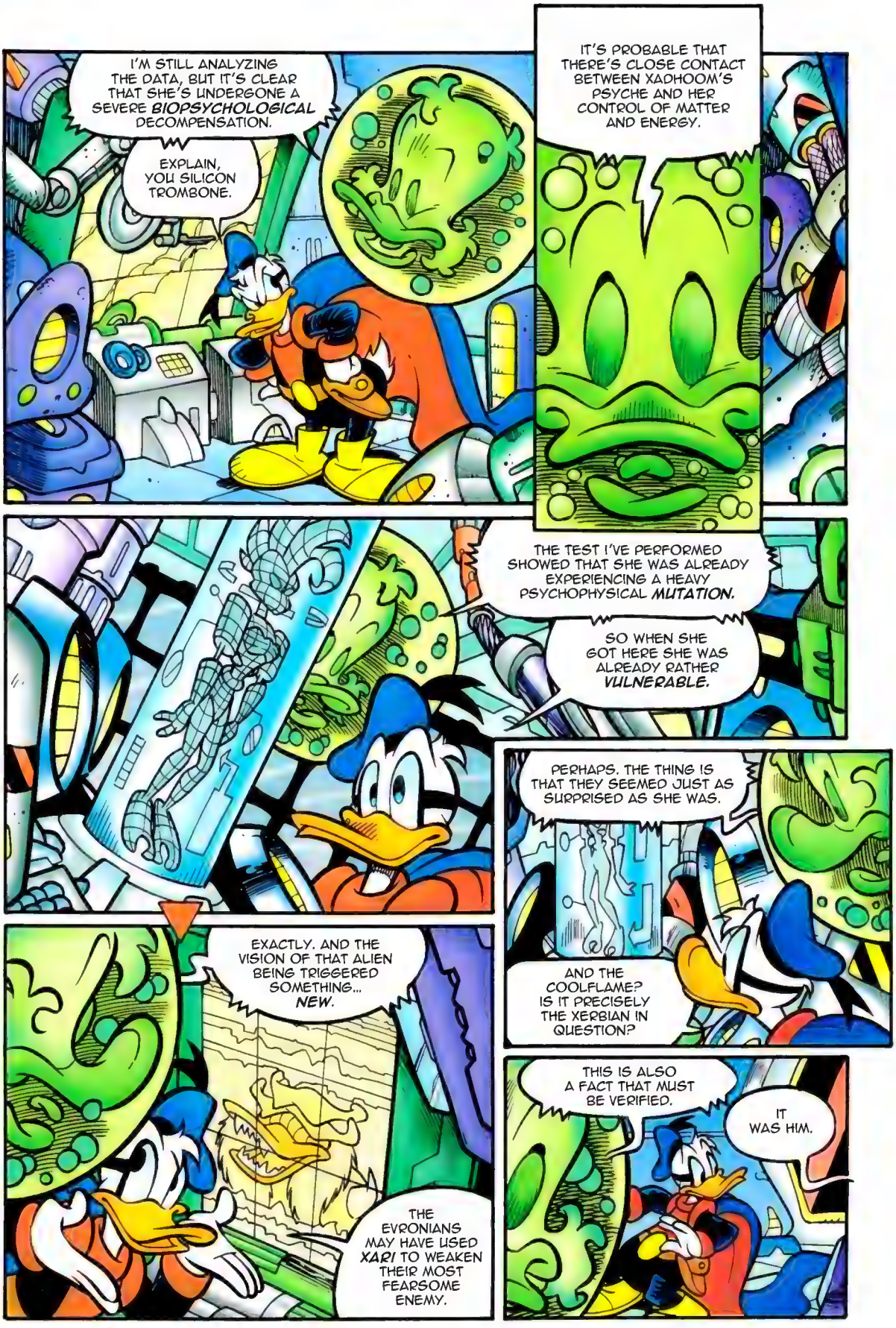
THEY'RE FASTER AND STRONGER. THIS ONE'S OPENING UP THE DUCKMOBILE LIKE A CAN OF TOMATOES.
WE NEED A DIVERSION! DO SOMETHING!
I'LL TRY A FLYBY, DUCK!
?
WOODS
NICE ONE, PARTNER!
AGRRR!
I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT THIS TIME WE SHOULD ESCAPE.
AND I'M SORRY TO CONTRADICT YOU, BUT I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING ANYWHERE!
EYE
LOLA
HOTEL
WE HAVE YOU WITHIN RANGE OF FIRE. DON'T MOVE OR YOU WILL BE ANNIHILATED!
OH NO!

OKAY. YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT US, BUT WE WILL SELL OUR LIVES DEARLY. OTHERS WILL COME AFTER US AND...
UM! DUCK AVENGER...
LET ME SPEAK, ONE. AMONG A LOT OF NONSENSE, I SHOULD SOONER OR LATER PULL OUT AN EPIC PHRASE.
YEAH, BUT I THINK THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.
COME ON, DON'T MAKE A RUCKUS. EVERY-ONE ONBOARD.
MGRRRR!
IN FACT, THEY DON'T HAVE IT IN FOR US!
EEEH?
LET ME LOOK AT YOU IN YOUR FACES, TRAITORS!
P-PLEASE FOLLOW THE PATROL, SIR.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
WE BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS. XADHOOM NEEDS TREATMENT.

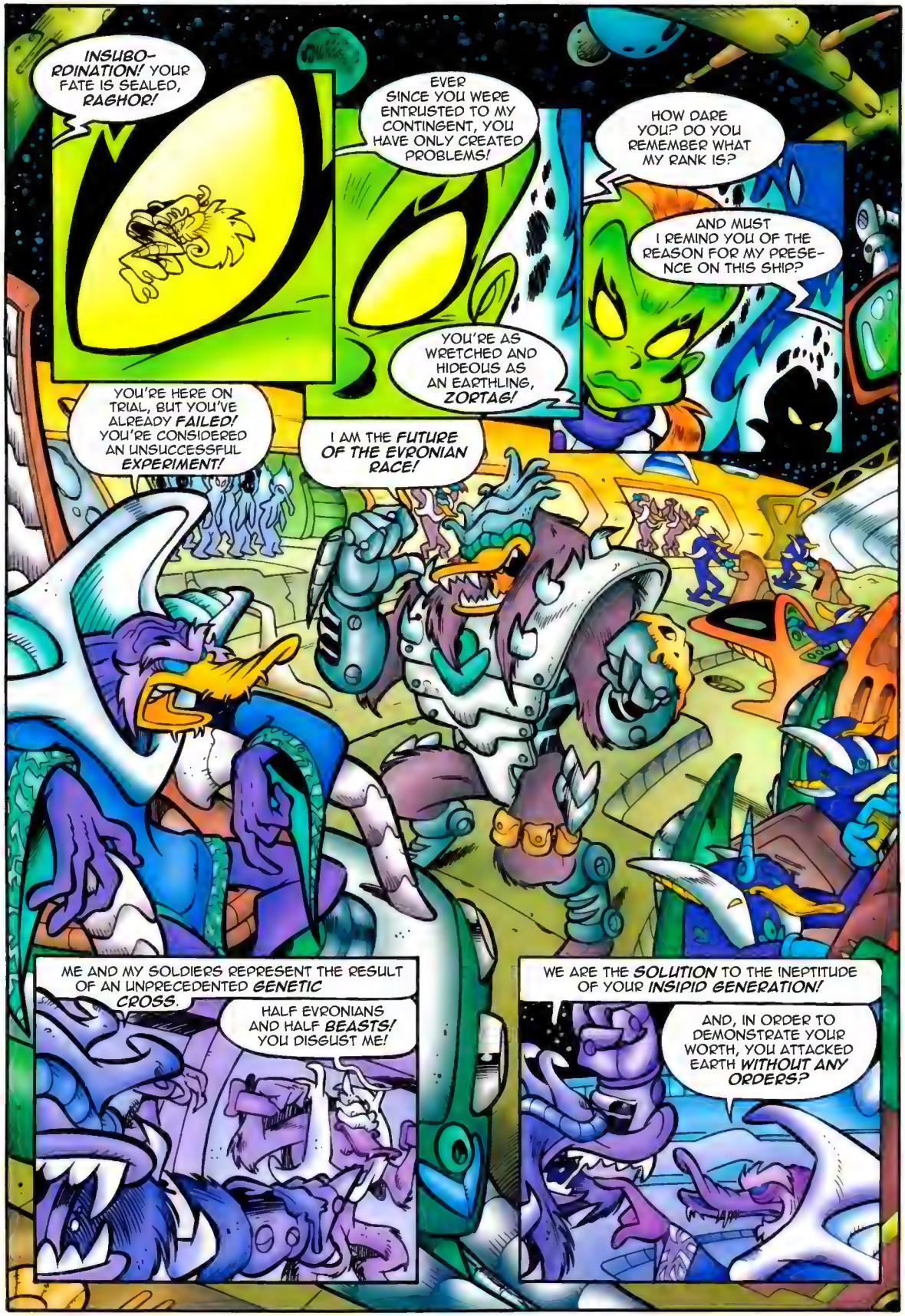
YOU NEED TREATMENT.
NO THANKS. IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. THESE TUBES ARE REAL TRAPS.
I DON'T THINK... OH! IT'S YOU!
EH? DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?
YES... I MEAN, NO! THE... THE FACT IS THAT I'VE CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOU. YOU'RE A RESEARCHER?
EXACTLY. I HAVE A SCHOLARSHIP. AND YOU'RE A PROMISING STUDENT.
WELL, I...
YOUR RESEARCH ON THE BLUE CEPHEID HAS SHAKEN THE INSTITUTE COMMISSION. YOU COULD BECOME SOMEONE.
REALLY? AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
EHEM! LET'S SAY THAT I KEEP MYSELF INFORMED. MY NAME IS XARI.
PLEASURE. MY NAME IS...
"XADHOOM!"

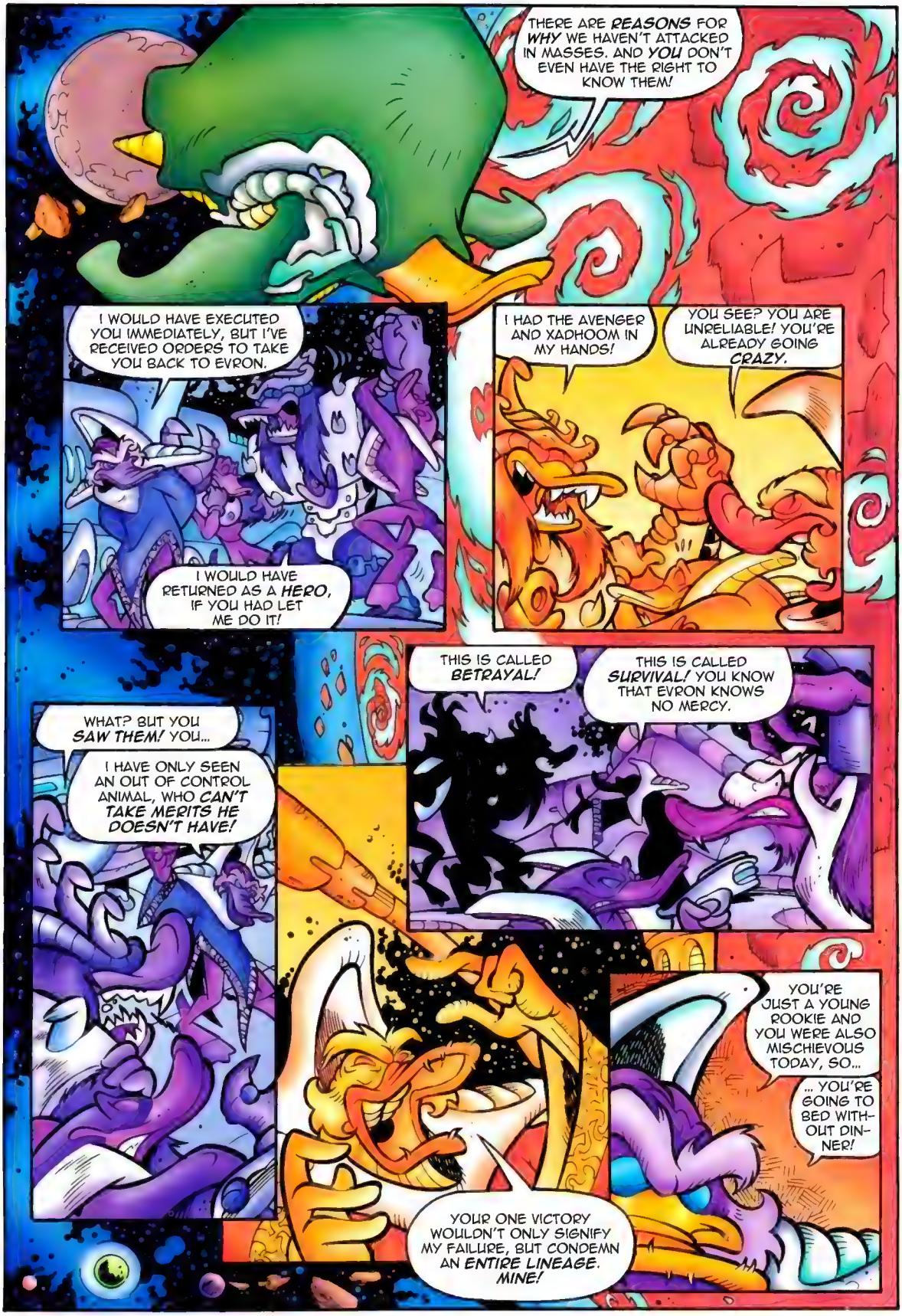

WAKE UP, BEAUTY EYES! YOU'RE WITH FRIENDS.
HUH? XARI? WHERE'S XARI?
EHEM! I'M SORRY, BUT THE EVRONIANS TOOK HIM.
I... I WAS TRYING TO FORGET! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU AND THIS MACHINE!
UH OH! SHE'S LOSING IT.
CLUNK
YOU AND YOUR TEST! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE TRIGGERED!
I'M REGISTERING AN INCREASE IN ENERGETIC ACTIVITY.
YOU'VE STUCK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, BUT YOU'LL PAY DEARLY FOR YOUR CURIOSITY!
C-CONTA-INMENT BARRIER?
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! I HAAA...
FAREWELL, CRUEL WORLD.
BOO HOOO!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
?

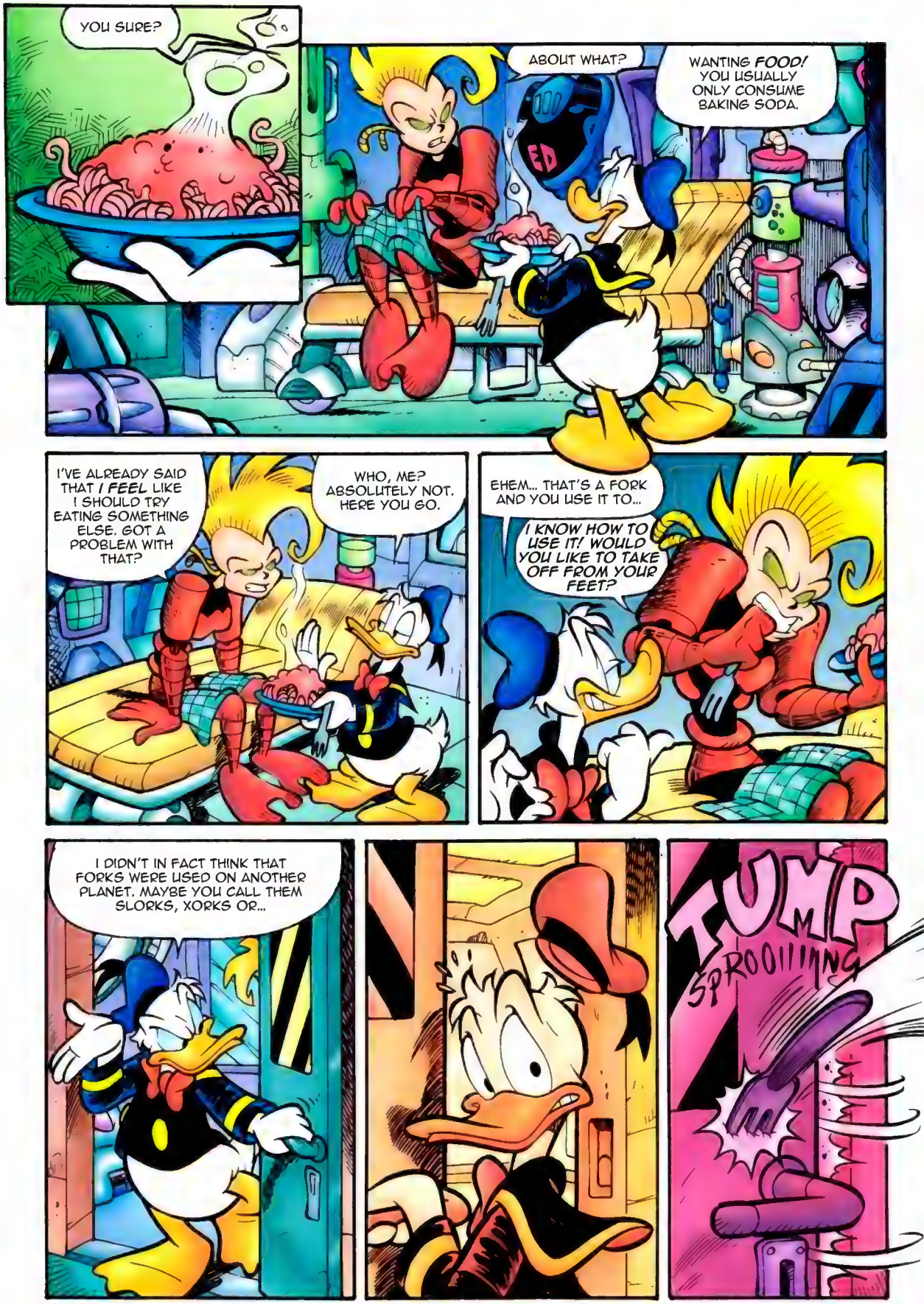
EEEE...
BOO HOOO!
AM I AWAKE OR IN A DREAM? XADHOOM IS CRYING!
STOP BOTHERING HER AND TURN OFF THE ALARM!
MUST BE A CONTACT. I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.
AN UNUSUAL REACTION FOR HER STANDARDS. AND A FORTUNATE ONE FOR US.
OH WELL! STOP THOSE TEARS AS WELL. I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE A GIRL CRYING.
GO AWAY! LOOK HOW I'VE BEEN REDUCED!
EEEEEEEEEE
I NO LONGER HAVE CONTROL OF MYSELF AND MY ENERGY!
BOO HOOO!
HERE WE GO AGAIN. BUT WHAT DID THEY DO TO HER?
YOU MEAN THE EVRONIANS? IN MY OPINION, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! COME, LET'S LEAVE HER ALONE FOR A WHILE.


I'M STILL ANALYZING THE DATA, BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT SHE'S UNDERGONE A SEVERE BIOPSYCHOLOGICAL DECOMPENSATION.
EXPLAIN, YOU SILICON TROMBONE.
IT'S PROBABLE THAT THERE'S CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN XADHOOM'S PSYCHE AND HER CONTROL OF MATTER AND ENERGY.
THE TEST I'VE PERFORMED SHOWED THAT SHE WAS ALREADY EXPERIENCING A HEAVY PSYCHOPHYSICAL MUTATION.
SO WHEN SHE GOT HERE SHE WAS ALREADY RATHER VULNERABLE.
PERHAPS. THE THING IS THAT THEY SEEMED JUST AS SURPRISED AS SHE WAS.
AND THE COOLFLAME? IS IT PRECISELY THE XERBIAN IN QUESTION?
EXACTLY. AND THE VISION OF THAT ALIEN BEING TRIGGERED SOMETHING... NEW.
THE EVRONIANS MAY HAVE USED XARI TO WEAKEN THEIR MOST FEARSOME ENEMY.
THIS IS ALSO A FACT THAT MUST BE VERIFIED.
IT WAS HIM.

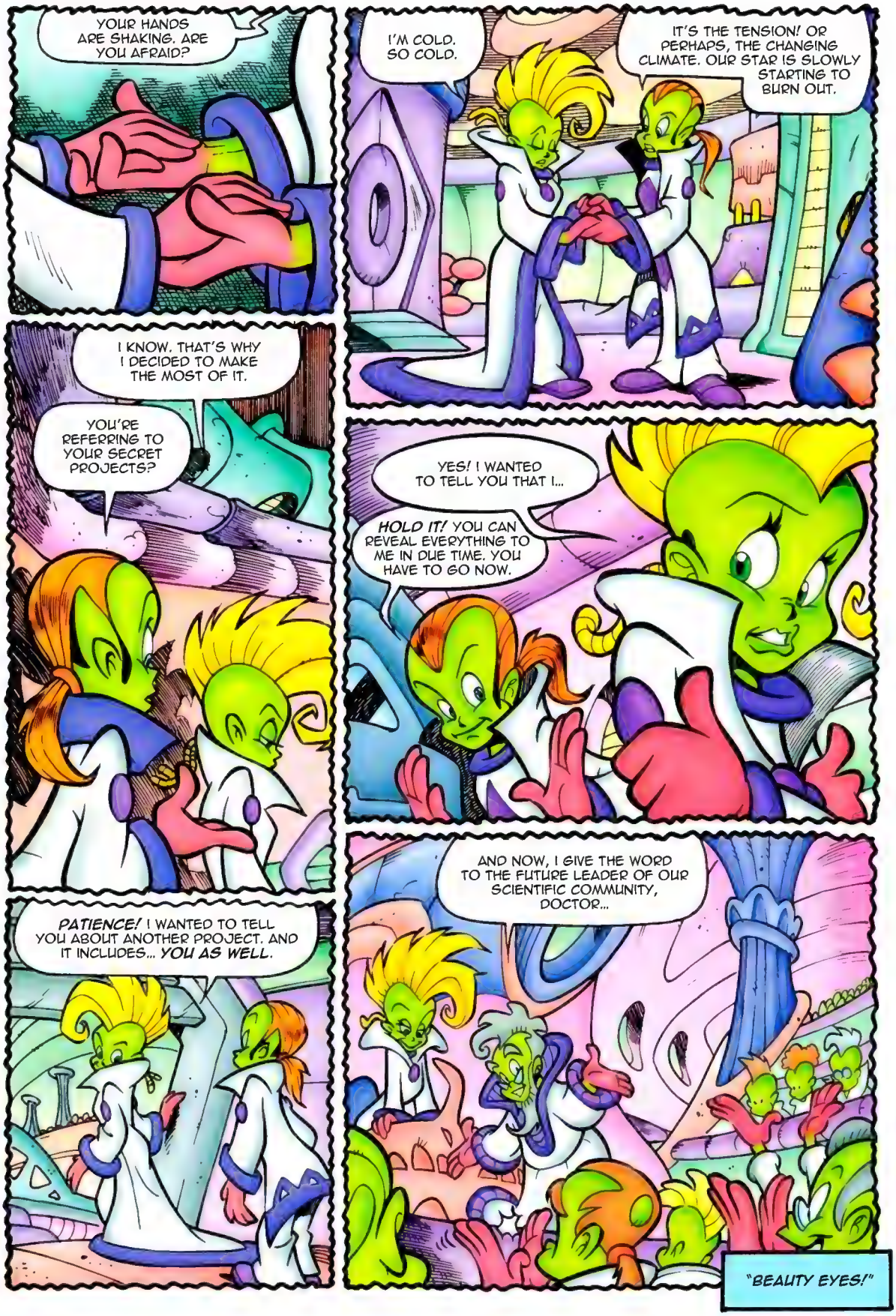
I'M... SURE I RECOGNIZED HIS FACE.
I'VE SEARCHED BEYOND THE UNIVERSE, IN PLACES WHERE EVEN THE LIGHTS OF THE STARS WERE SILENT.
"FOR HIM I CHALLENGED THE MATTER, EXPLORING THE PRIMORDIAL CHAOS OF UNBORN WORLDS."
"IN THE END, I STOPPED CHASING HIM AND BEGAN TO HOPE I WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE HIM!"
I DECEIVED MYSELF. IN AN INSTANT, HE PUT OUT MY FLAME, LEAVING ME COLD.
SO COLD.

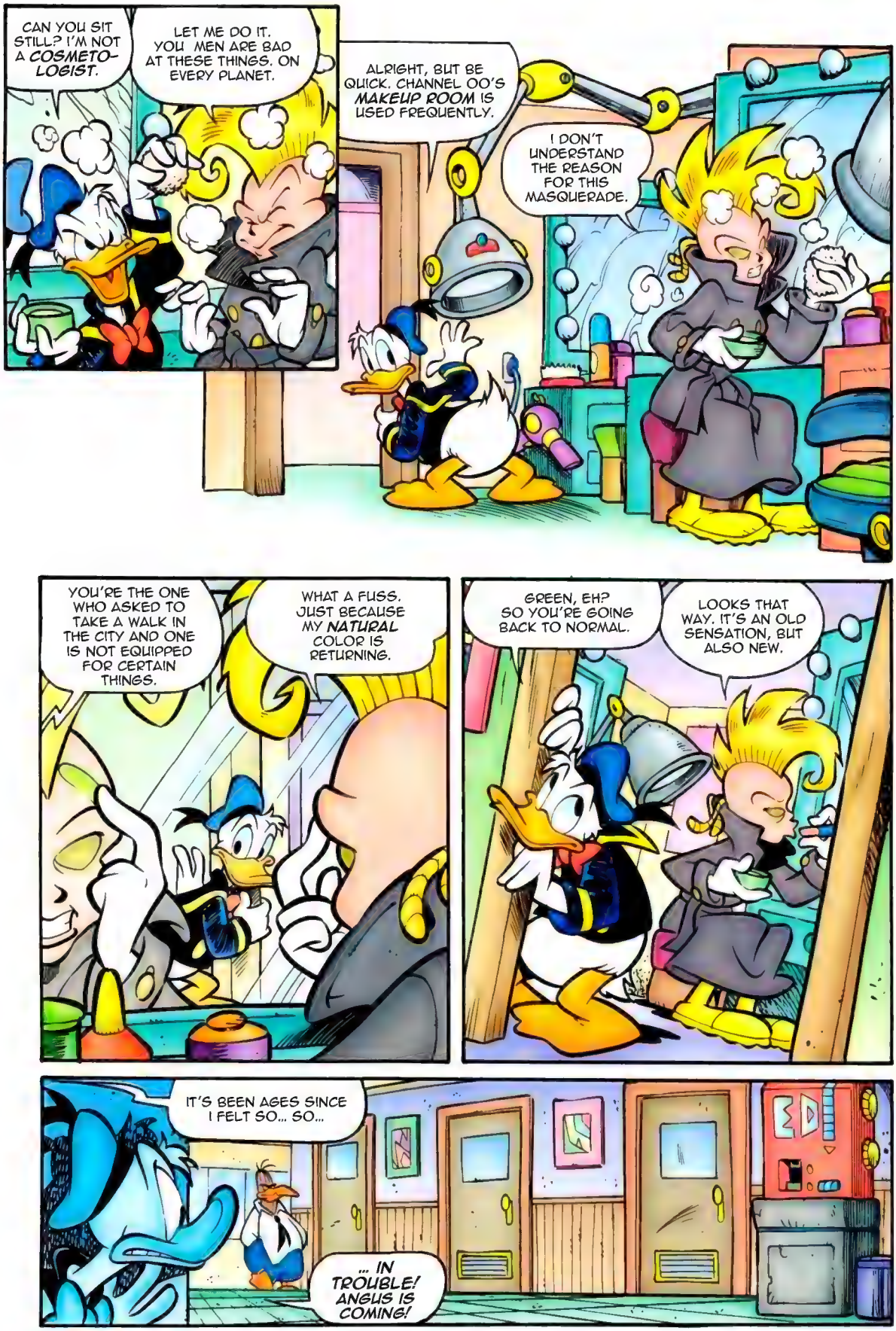

INSUBO-RDINATION! YOUR FATE IS SEALED, RAGHOR!
EVER SINCE YOU WERE ENTRUSTED TO MY CONTINGENT, YOU HAVE ONLY CREATED PROBLEMS!
HOW DARE YOU? DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT MY RANK IS?
AND MUST I REMIND YOU OF THE REASON FOR MY PRESE-NCE ON THIS SHIP?
YOU'RE AS WRETCHED AND HIDEOUS AS AN EARTHLING, ZORTAG!
YOU'RE HERE ON TRIAL, BUT YOU'VE ALREADY FAILED! YOU'RE CONSIDERED AN UNSUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT!
I AM THE FUTURE OF THE EVRONIAN RACE!
ME AND MY SOLDIERS REPRESENT THE RESULT OF AN UNPRECEDENTED GENETIC CROSS.
HALF EVRONIANS AND HALF BEASTS! YOU DISGUST ME!
WE ARE THE SOLUTION TO THE INEPTITUDE OF YOUR INSIPID GENERATION!
AND, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR WORTH, YOU ATTACKED EARTH WITHOUT ANY ORDERS?


THERE ARE *REASONS* FOR *WHY* WE HAVEN'T ATTACKED IN MASSES. AND *YOU* DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THEM!
I WOULD HAVE EXECUTED YOU IMMEDIATELY, BUT I'VE RECEIVED ORDERS TO TAKE YOU BACK TO EVRON.
I WOULD HAVE RETURNED AS A *HERO*, IF YOU HAD LET ME DO IT!
I HAD THE AVENGER AND XADHOOM IN MY HANDS!
YOU SEE? YOU ARE UNRELIABLE! YOU'RE ALREADY GOING *CRAZY*.
THIS IS CALLED *BETRAYAL!*
THIS IS CALLED *SURVIVAL!* YOU KNOW THAT EVRON KNOWS NO MERCY.
WHAT? BUT YOU *SAW THEM!* YOU...
I HAVE ONLY SEEN AN OUT OF CONTROL ANIMAL, WHO *CAN'T TAKE MERITS HE DOESN'T HAVE!*
YOUR ONE VICTORY WOULDN'T ONLY SIGNIFY MY FAILURE, BUT CONDEMN AN *ENTIRE LINEAGE*. *MINE!*
YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG ROOKIE AND YOU WERE ALSO MISCHIEVOUS TODAY, SO...
... YOU'RE GOING TO BED WITHOUT DINNER!

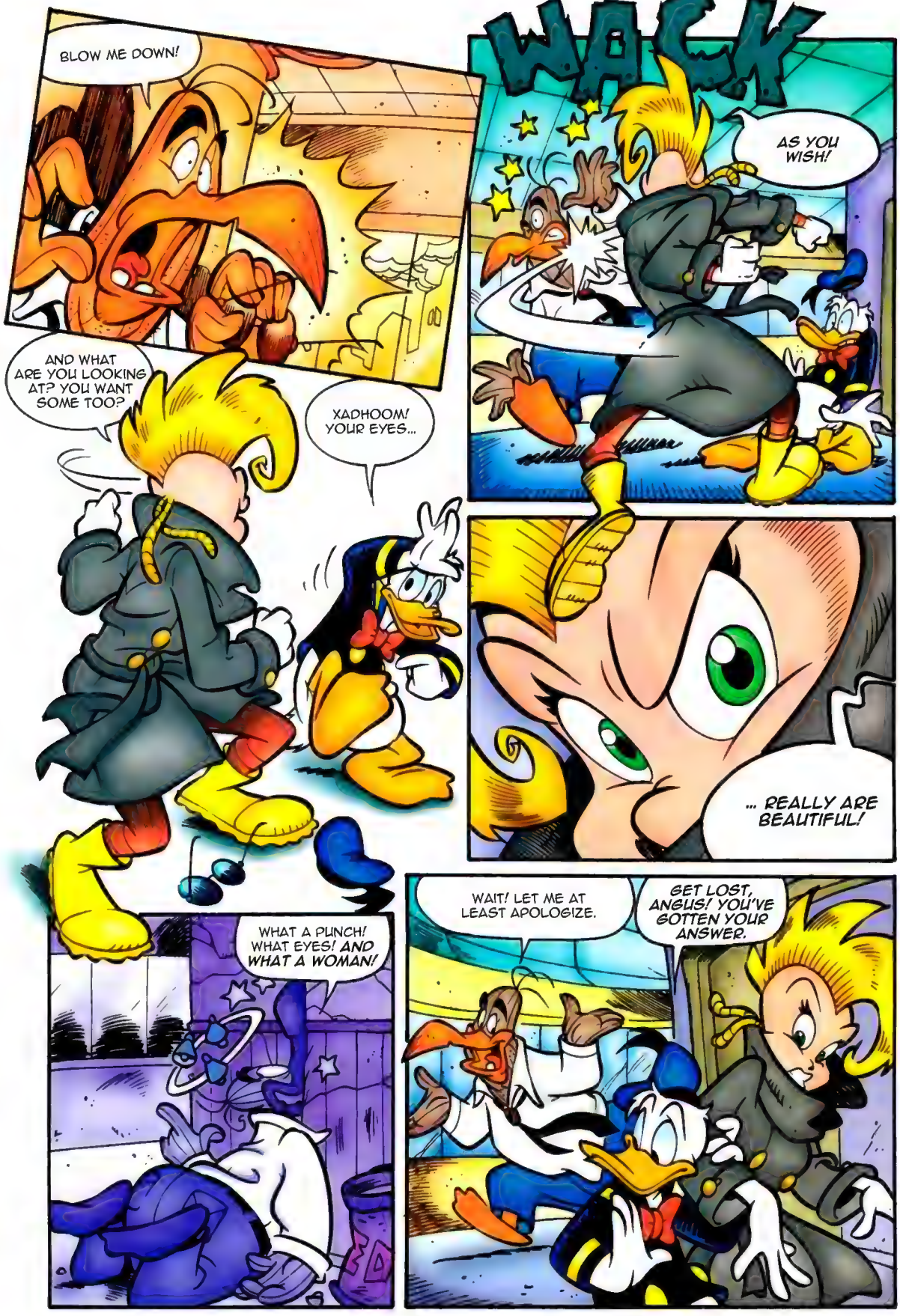

YOU SURE?
ABOUT WHAT?
WANTING FOOD! YOU USUALLY ONLY CONSUME BAKING SODA.
I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD TRY EATING SOMETHING ELSE. GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WHO, ME? ABSOLUTELY NOT. HERE YOU GO.
EHEM... THAT'S A FORK AND YOU USE IT TO...
I KNOW HOW TO USE IT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE OFF FROM YOUR FEET?
I DIDN'T IN FACT THINK THAT FORKS WERE USED ON ANOTHER PLANET. MAYBE YOU CALL THEM SLORKS, XORKS OR...
TUMP
SPROOIIING

SO? HAVE YOU FOUND OUT WHAT XERBIAN FORKS ARE CALLED?
YES! DARTS! ARE THERE ANY NEWS?
DATA IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT XADHOOM IS CHANGING.
I DON'T SEE IT. SHE HAS THE SAME TEMPER AS ALWAYS.
PERHAPS THAT TOO WILL CHANGE. SHE'S UNDERGOING A COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS.
EH? WILL SHE SPROUT WINGS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
RELAX! I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT THIS MIGHT BE A DEFINITIVE CHANGE.
AH! THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM.
I THINK NOT, BUT I CAN'T EVEN DETERMINE HOW LONG IT WILL LAST.
Y-YOU MEAN THAT SHE'S GOING TO...
IN WHAT SENSE, IF I MAY ASK?
WELL, IF SHE HAS TO LIVE ON EARTH, SHE CERTAINLY CAN'T KEEP THAT LOOK.
PERHAPS YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, BUT SPOTS ARE STARTING TO APPEAR ON HER HANDS.


YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING. ARE YOU AFRAID?
I'M COLD. SO COLD.
IT'S THE TENSION! OR PERHAPS, THE CHANGING CLIMATE. OUR STAR IS SLOWLY STARTING TO BURN OUT.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
YOU'RE REFERRING TO YOUR SECRET PROJECTS?
YES! I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I...
HOLD IT! YOU CAN REVEAL EVERYTHING TO ME IN DUE TIME. YOU HAVE TO GO NOW.
PATIENCE! I WANTED TO TELL YOU ABOUT ANOTHER PROJECT. AND IT INCLUDES... *YOU AS WELL.*
AND NOW, I GIVE THE WORD TO THE FUTURE LEADER OF OUR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, DOCTOR...
"BEAUTY EYES!"

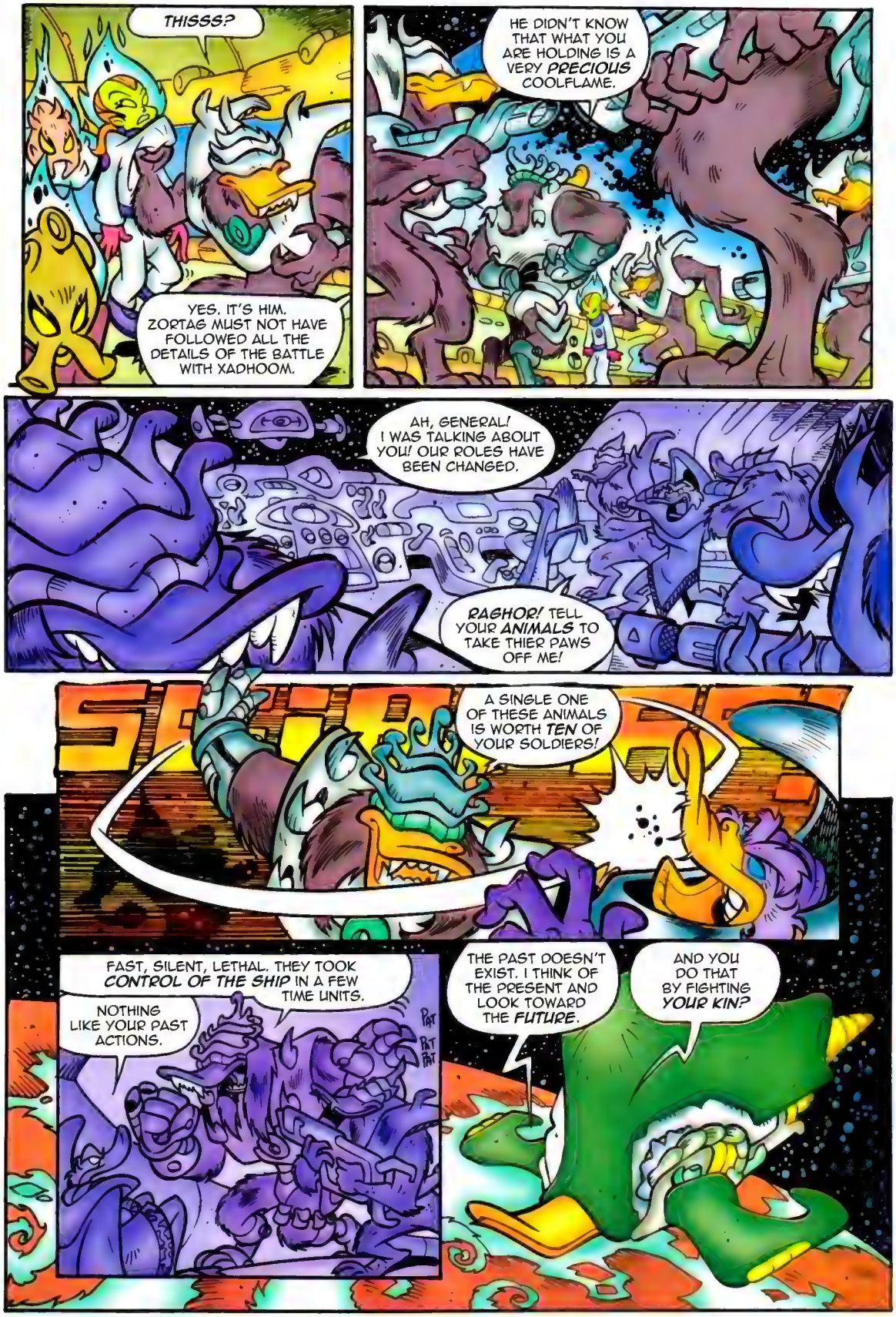

CAN YOU SIT STILL? I'M NOT A COSMETOLOGIST.
LET ME DO IT. YOU MEN ARE BAD AT THESE THINGS. ON EVERY PLANET.
ALRIGHT, BUT BE QUICK. CHANNEL 00'S MAKEUP ROOM IS USED FREQUENTLY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THIS MASQUERADE.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED TO TAKE A WALK IN THE CITY AND ONE IS NOT EQUIPPED FOR CERTAIN THINGS.
WHAT A FUSS. JUST BECAUSE MY NATURAL COLOR IS RETURNING.
GREEN, EH? SO YOU'RE GOING BACK TO NORMAL.
LOOKS THAT WAY. IT'S AN OLD SENSATION, BUT ALSO NEW.
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I FELT SO... SO...
... IN TROUBLE! ANGUS IS COMING!

AH, THE SAILOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? TRYING OUT LIPSTICK?
WITTY. I WAS JUST SHOWING THE STUDIOS TO A...
... FRIEND OF MINE!
HI.
GYEH!
WE'VE MET BEFORE, HAVEN'T WE?
MAYBE, BUT I MUST HAVE REMOVED THE MEMORY OF THAT MOMENT. (*)
(*) YOU TOO? REREAD PKNA#0/3, "XADHOOM".
HOW COME YOU'RE HERE? WORK OR PLEASURE?
ONCE IT WAS REVENGE, BUT NOWADAYS... I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE.
THAT'S ENOUGH, ANGUS. YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MANNERS?
IT'S PROFESSIONAL DEFORMATION. AND ALSO, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS ME.
TOO BAD FOR YOU. WE'RE LEAVING, BEAUTY EYES.
AHA! LET'S REMOVE THESE SUNGLASSES!
ANGUS! NO!
?

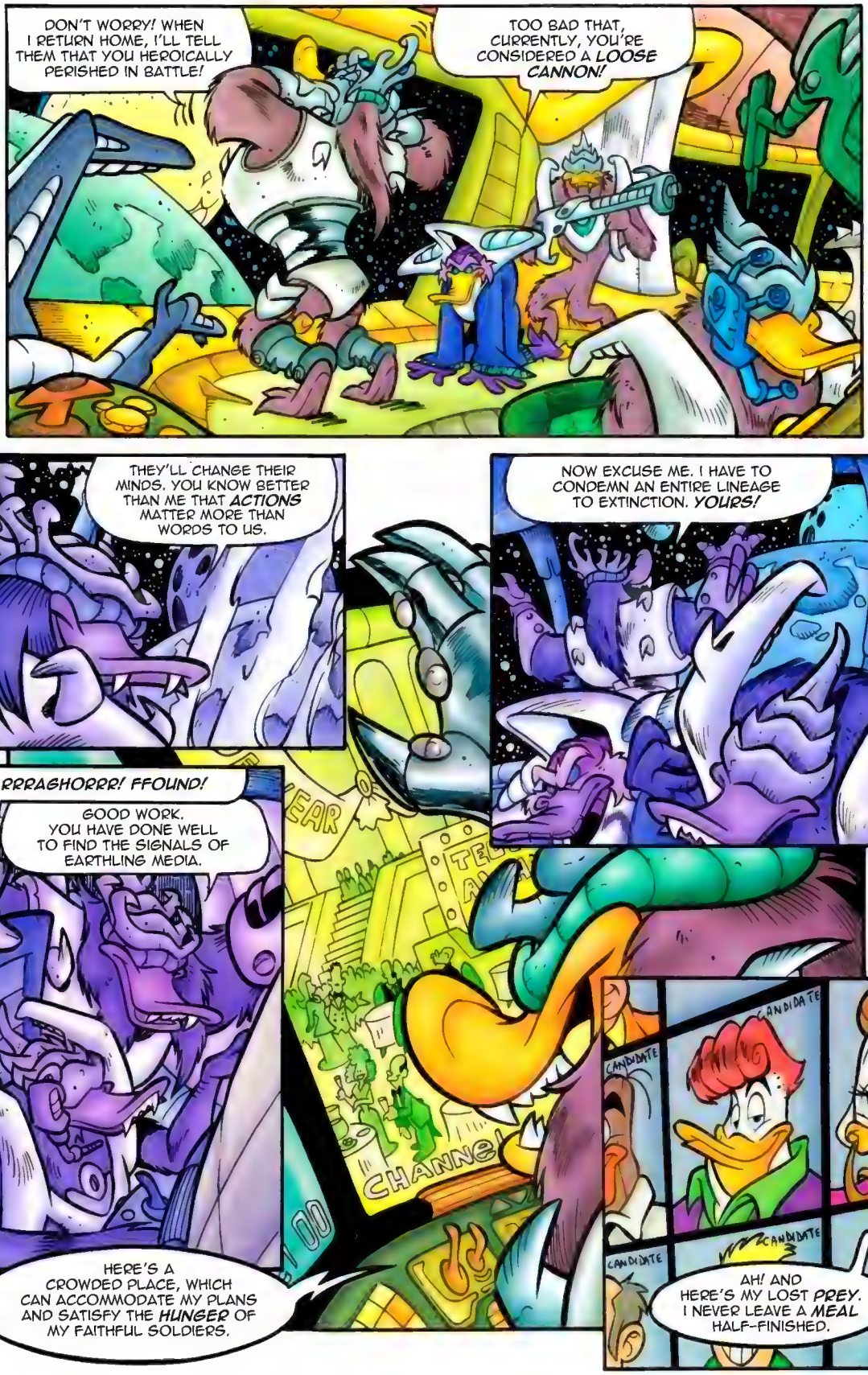

BLOW ME DOWN!
WACK
AS YOU WISH!
AND WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? YOU WANT SOME TOO?
XADHOOM! YOUR EYES...
... REALLY ARE BEAUTIFUL!
WHAT A PUNCH! WHAT EYES! AND WHAT A WOMAN!
WAIT! LET ME AT LEAST APOLOGIZE.
GET LOST, ANGUS! YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR ANSWER.

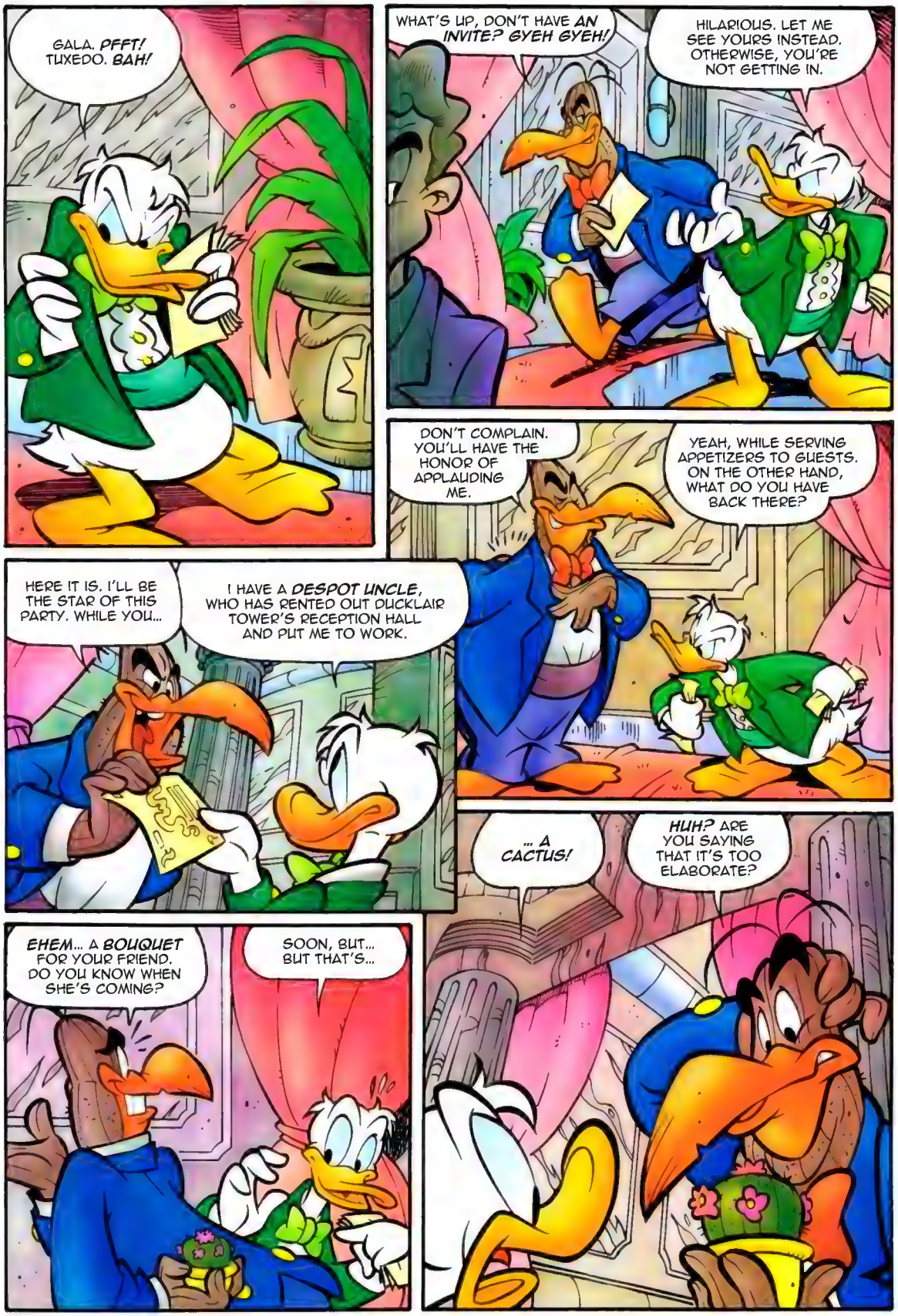
THIS EVENING, I'LL BE AWARDED JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR!
YOU HAVEN'T WON YET! AND THE NEWSDUCK AWARD IS NOT THE PULITZER PRIZE!
BUT IT IS ITS DUCKBURGIAN COUNTERPART! I'LL SETTLE FOR THIS WHILE I WAIT FOR THE REAL PRIZE.
WAIT A MINUTE! LET ME GUESS...
... YOU WANT TO INVITE HER TO THE GALA!
YOU GUESSED IT! EVERYONE WHO MATTERS WILL BE THERE AND I'M SURE THAT A REAL LADY...
HA HA! COME ON! YOU'RE RIDICULOUS!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT? I CAN'T BE A CAVALIER?
YOU CAN BE AT HORSE, AT BEST! ON THE CONTRARY, A MULE! AND ANYWAYS, HER ANSWER IS...
YES!
I ACCEPT THE INVITATION.
EEEH?
GREAT! MAY I KNOW YOUR NAME?
JUST CALL ME XADO! DOCTOR XADO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! HE IS THE LAST GUY IN THIS WORLD YOU SHOULD GO OUT WITH.
A WORLD. THUS IT'S THIS, THE EARTH?
YOU ACCEPTED. AND NOW... IF HE... AND THEN... ALSO...
"THIS BUSTLING VITAL SPACE? THIS MAGNIFICENT CHAOS?"
"THROUGH MY REAL EYES IT'S NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM XERBA."
"I TOUCH AND DISCOVER THAT IT HAS SOLID FOUNDATIONS, THE RESULT OF HARD WORK AND VIRTUOUS MINDS."
POTY
POTY
POOT
BEEP
BEEEP
"I LISTEN AND, FOR ONCE, BACKGROUND NOISES AREN'T OVERWHELMED BY MY HATE."
... AND THAT'S THE END OF IT! ARE YOU LISTENING?
SURE!
I WANT THAT!

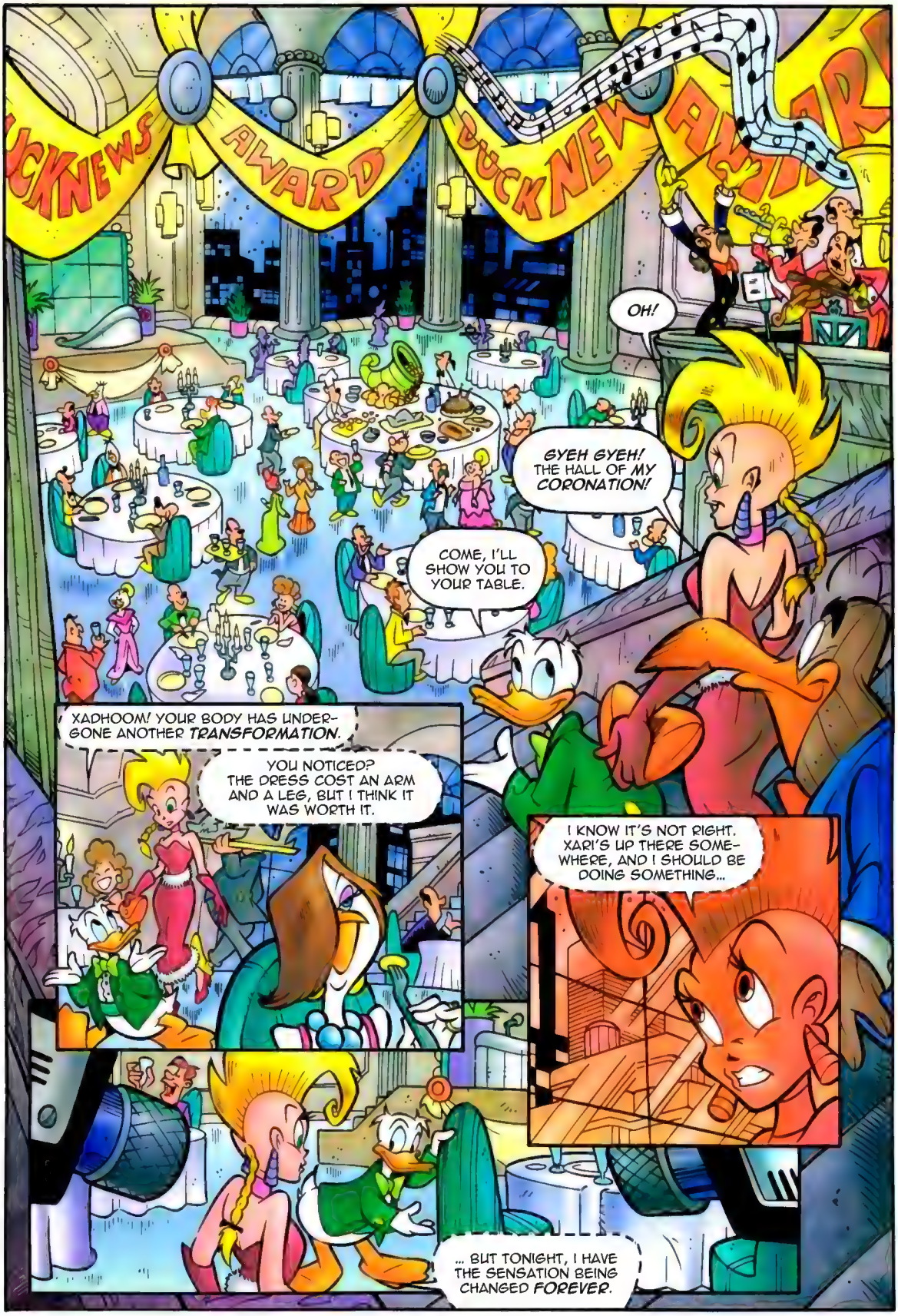

THISSS?
YES. IT'S HIM. ZORTAG MUST NOT HAVE FOLLOWED ALL THE DETAILS OF THE BATTLE WITH XADHOOM.
HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT WHAT YOU ARE HOLDING IS A VERY PRECIOUS COOLFLAME.
AH, GENERAL! I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU! OUR ROLES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.
RAGHOR! TELL YOUR ANIMALS TO TAKE THIER PAWS OFF ME!
A SINGLE ONE OF THESE ANIMALS IS WORTH TEN OF YOUR SOLDIERS!
FAST, SILENT, LETHAL. THEY TOOK CONTROL OF THE SHIP IN A FEW TIME UNITS.
NOTHING LIKE YOUR PAST ACTIONS.
THE PAST DOESN'T EXIST. I THINK OF THE PRESENT AND LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE.
AND YOU DO THAT BY FIGHTING YOUR KIN?

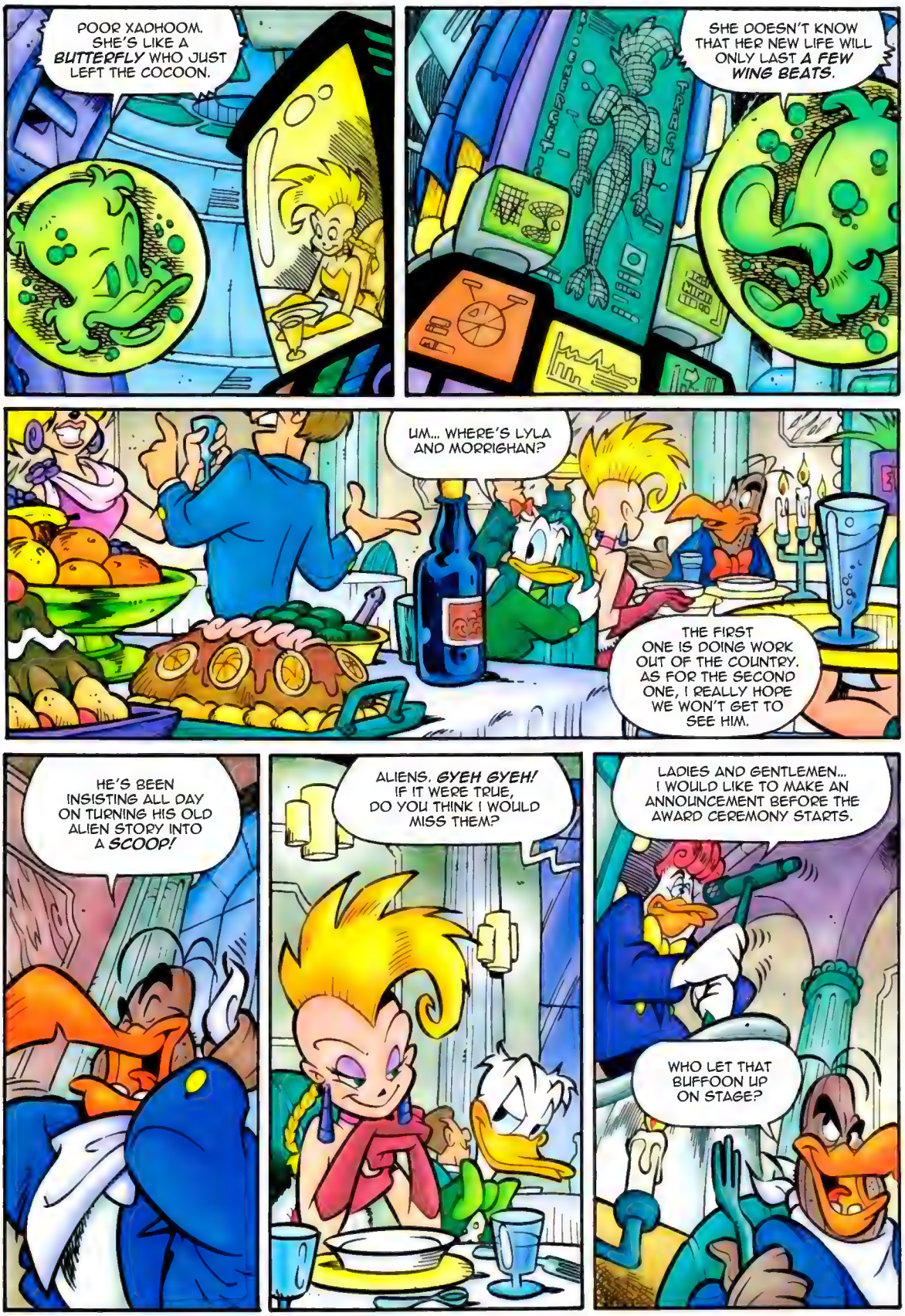
HA HA HA! THIS IS JUST BEAUTIFUL! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, GENERAL ZORTAG!
FSSSSSS
BY EVRON!
DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE... KIN?
HISSHH
YEAH! AND HIM ONLY. I'M CHANGING AND GETTING MORE AND MORE CLOSER TO HIS IMAGE.
FOR NOW, I'M CONTENT WITH JUST THIS!
YOU'RE DELIRIOUS! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
FIRST OF ALL, I'LL LOCK YOU UP IN THE COOLFLAME STORAGE TOGETHER WITH YOUR KIN.
THEN, I'LL BRING XADHOOM AND THE DUCK AVENGER HERE, JUST TO RUB YOUR INEPTITUDE IN YOUR FACE.
AND FINALLY, I'LL KILL YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS!
HISSSH


DON'T WORRY! WHEN I RETURN HOME, I'LL TELL THEM THAT YOU HEROICALLY PERISHED IN BATTLE!
TOO BAD THAT, CURRENTLY, YOU'RE CONSIDERED A LOOSE CANNON!
THEY'LL CHANGE THEIR MINDS. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ME THAT ACTIONS MATTER MORE THAN WORDS TO US.
NOW EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO CONDEMN AN ENTIRE LINEAGE TO EXTINCTION. YOURS!
RRRAGHORRR! FFOUND!
GOOD WORK. YOU HAVE DONE WELL TO FIND THE SIGNALS OF EARTHLING MEDIA.
HERE'S A CROWDED PLACE, WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE MY PLANS AND SATISFY THE HUNGER OF MY FAITHFUL SOLDIERS.
CANDIDATE
AH! AND HERE'S MY LOST PREY. I NEVER LEAVE A MEAL HALF-FINISHED.


GALA. PFFT! TUXEDO. BAH!
WHAT'S UP, DON'T HAVE AN INVITE? GYEH GYEH!
HILARIOUS. LET ME SEE YOURS INSTEAD. OTHERWISE, YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN.
DON'T COMPLAIN. YOU'LL HAVE THE HONOR OF APPLAUDING ME.
YEAH, WHILE SERVING APPETIZERS TO GUESTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT DO YOU HAVE BACK THERE?
HERE IT IS. I'LL BE THE STAR OF THIS PARTY. WHILE YOU...
I HAVE A DESPOT UNCLE, WHO HAS RENTED OUT DUCKLAIR TOWER'S RECEPTION HALL AND PUT ME TO WORK.
... A CACTUS!
HUH? ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT'S TOO ELABORATE?
EHEM... A BOUQUET FOR YOUR FRIEND. DO YOU KNOW WHEN SHE'S COMING?
SOON, BUT... BUT THAT'S...

YOU DON'T GIVE SOMEONE A CACTUS. AT LEAST, NOT ON THE FIRST DATE!
I KNEW IT. I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT BAOBAB TREE ON DISPLAY.
A GIRL WANTS SOMETHING ELSE. ALTHOUGH SHE'S NOT AN ORDINARY GIRL...
GYEH! I CAN SEE THAT MYSELF!
HI. AM I LATE?
AND WHAT IS THIS? A GIFT?
EHEM... NO! THIS IS A... A...
AH! I GET IT.
MORSCH
NOT BAD FOR AN APPETIZER. OF COURSE, WITHOUT A FORK...
I-I TOLD YOU SO.
G-GOOD THING I DIDN'T BUY THAT BAOBAB TREE...

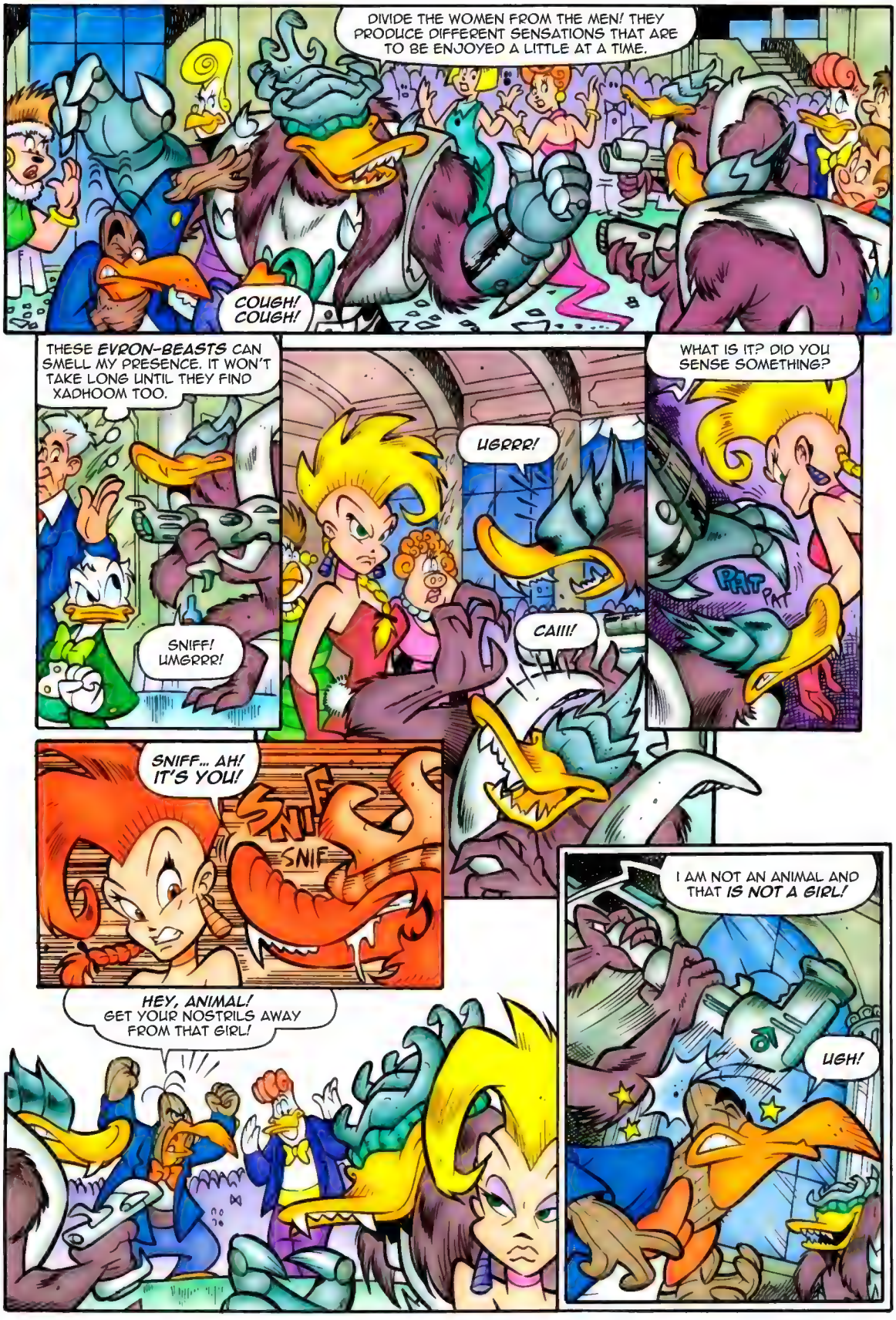

AWARD
OH!
GYEH GYEH! THE HALL OF MY CORONATION!
COME, I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR TABLE.
XADHOOM! YOUR BODY HAS UNDERGONE ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION.
YOU NOTICED? THE DRESS COST AN ARM AND A LEG, BUT I THINK IT WAS WORTH IT.
I KNOW IT'S NOT RIGHT. XARI'S UP THERE SOMEWHERE, AND I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING...
... BUT TONIGHT, I HAVE THE SENSATION BEING CHANGED FOREVER.

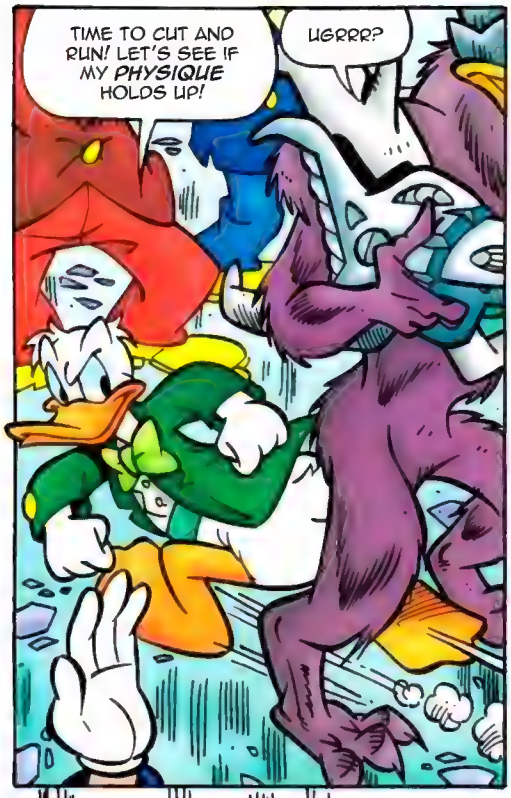

POOR XADHOOM. SHE'S LIKE A BUTTERFLY WHO JUST LEFT THE COCOON.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT HER NEW LIFE WILL ONLY LAST A FEW WING BEATS.
UM... WHERE'S LYLA AND MORRIGHAN?
THE FIRST ONE IS DOING WORK OUT OF THE COUNTRY. AS FOR THE SECOND ONE, I REALLY HOPE WE WON'T GET TO SEE HIM.
HE'S BEEN INSISTING ALL DAY ON TURNING HIS OLD ALIEN STORY INTO A SCOOP!
ALIENS. GYEH GYEH! IF IT WERE TRUE, DO YOU THINK I WOULD MISS THEM?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE AWARD CEREMONY STARTS.
WHO LET THAT BUFFOON UP ON STAGE?

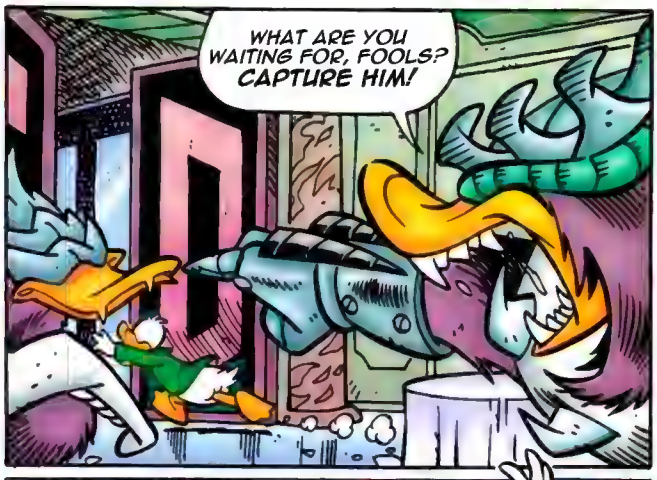
T-THEY FORCED ME TO COME UP HERE. THEY...
WHO ARE THEY, MORRIGHAN? GREEN MARTIANS?
HUH! EITHER THE POWER HAS GONE OUT FOR A SECOND TIME, OR...
HA HA HA!
WAMP
... ONE IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING!
MR. MORRIGHAN JUST WANTED TO INTRODUCE A FRIEND, WHO HAS A BURNING DESIRE TO MEET YOU.
WAVE HELLO TO THEM.
XAR... MFF!
SHHH!

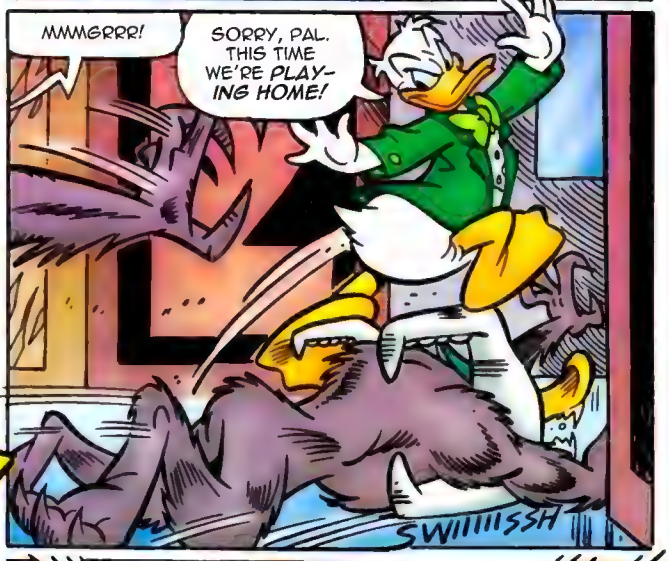
IIIH!
AAAH!
PLEASE DON'T REMAIN CALM. WE LOVE THE SMELL OF PANIC.
EEEK!

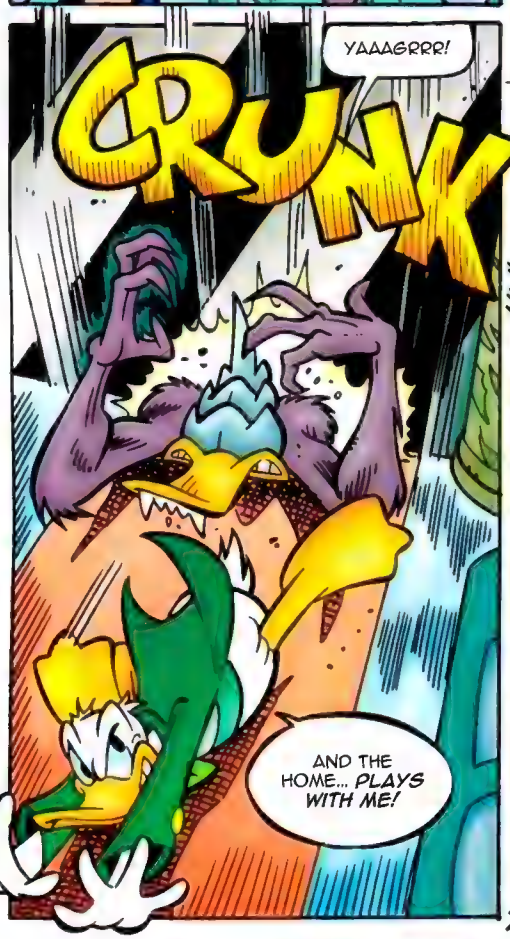
AAAH!
I HAVE TO... HUH?
UGRRR!
SNIF SNIF
IIIH! HELP!
BETTER GET A CHANGE OF AIR! HE MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED THE SMELL OF MY DEODORANT!
GOOD! THE LIGHT CAME BACK. THUS WE CAN INFUSE A BIT OF HEALTHY TERROR, AND THEN SUCK IT ALL UP!
ALIENS MY FOOT! YOU'RE THE MASKED TERRORISTS WHO ATTACKED CITY HALL!
TERRORISTS, EH? I LIKE IT!
WELL, JUST SAY WHAT YOUR CONDITIONS ARE AND THEN LEAVE. THERE'S A PARTY GOING ON HERE.
HERE ARE MY CONDITIONS, NATIVE! I WANT THE DUCK AVENGER AND HIS WORTHY FRIEND TO COME HERE! NOW!
UNGH!


DIVIDE THE WOMEN FROM THE MEN! THEY PRODUCE DIFFERENT SENSATIONS THAT ARE TO BE ENJOYED A LITTLE AT A TIME.
COUGH! COUGH!
THESE EVRON-BEASTS CAN SMELL MY PRESENCE. IT WON'T TAKE LONG UNTIL THEY FIND XADHOOM TOO.
SNIFF! UMGRRR!
UGRRR!
CAIII!
WHAT IS IT? DID YOU SENSE SOMETHING?
PHAT PAT
SNIFF... AH! IT'S YOU!
SNIF
SNIF
HEY, ANIMAL! GET YOUR NOSTRILS AWAY FROM THAT GIRL!
I AM NOT AN ANIMAL AND THAT IS NOT A GIRL!
UGH!


TIME TO CUT AND RUN! LET'S SEE IF MY PHYSIQUE HOLDS UP!
UGRRR?

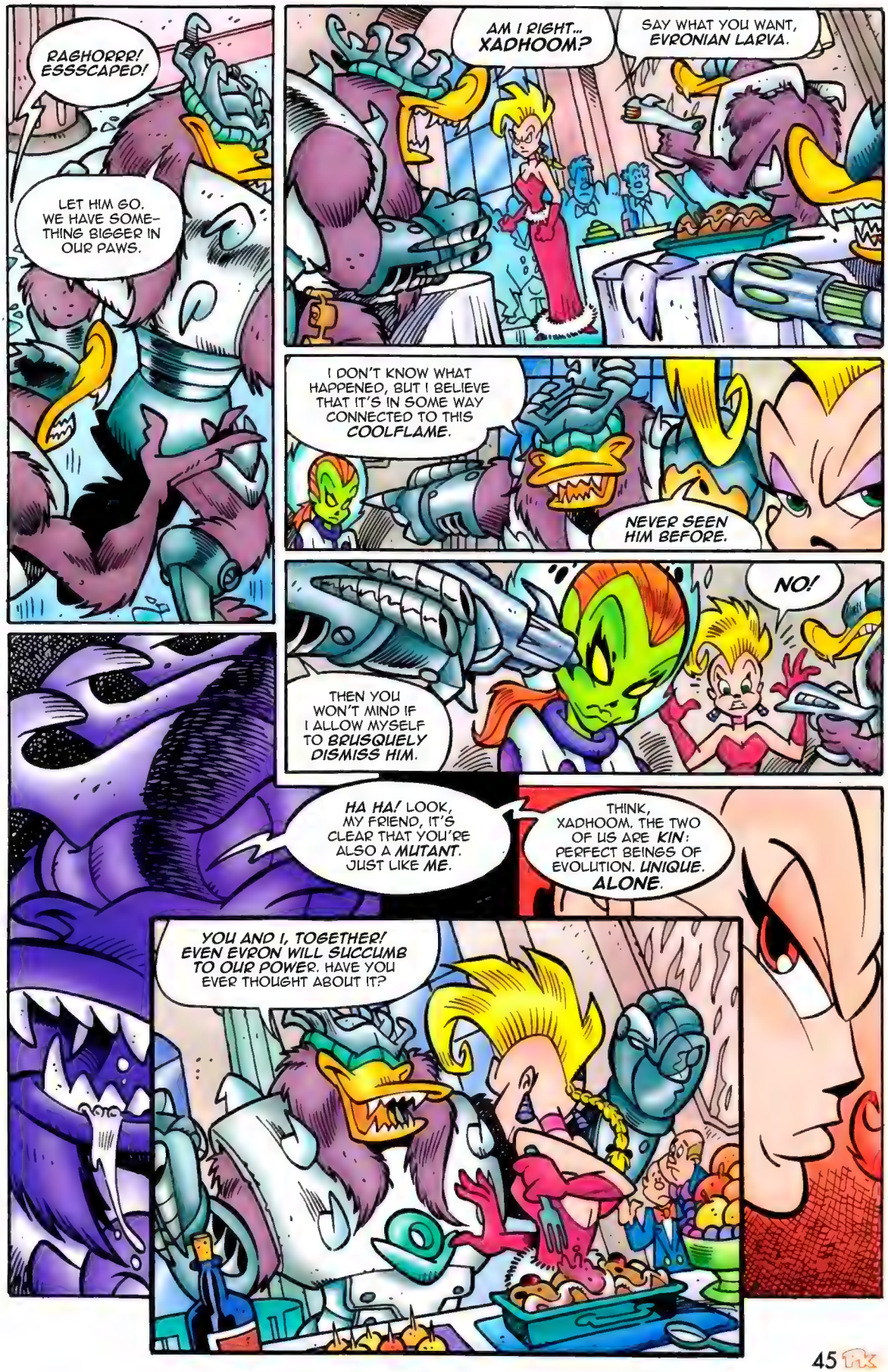

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, FOOLS? CAPTURE HIM!


MMMGRRR!
SORRY, PAL. THIS TIME WE'RE PLAY-ING HOME!
SWIIIISSH


YAAAGRRR!
CRUNK
AND THE HOME... PLAYS WITH ME!

GRAAOURRR!
OOPS! THAT'S NOT IN THE RULEBOOK!
BRAM

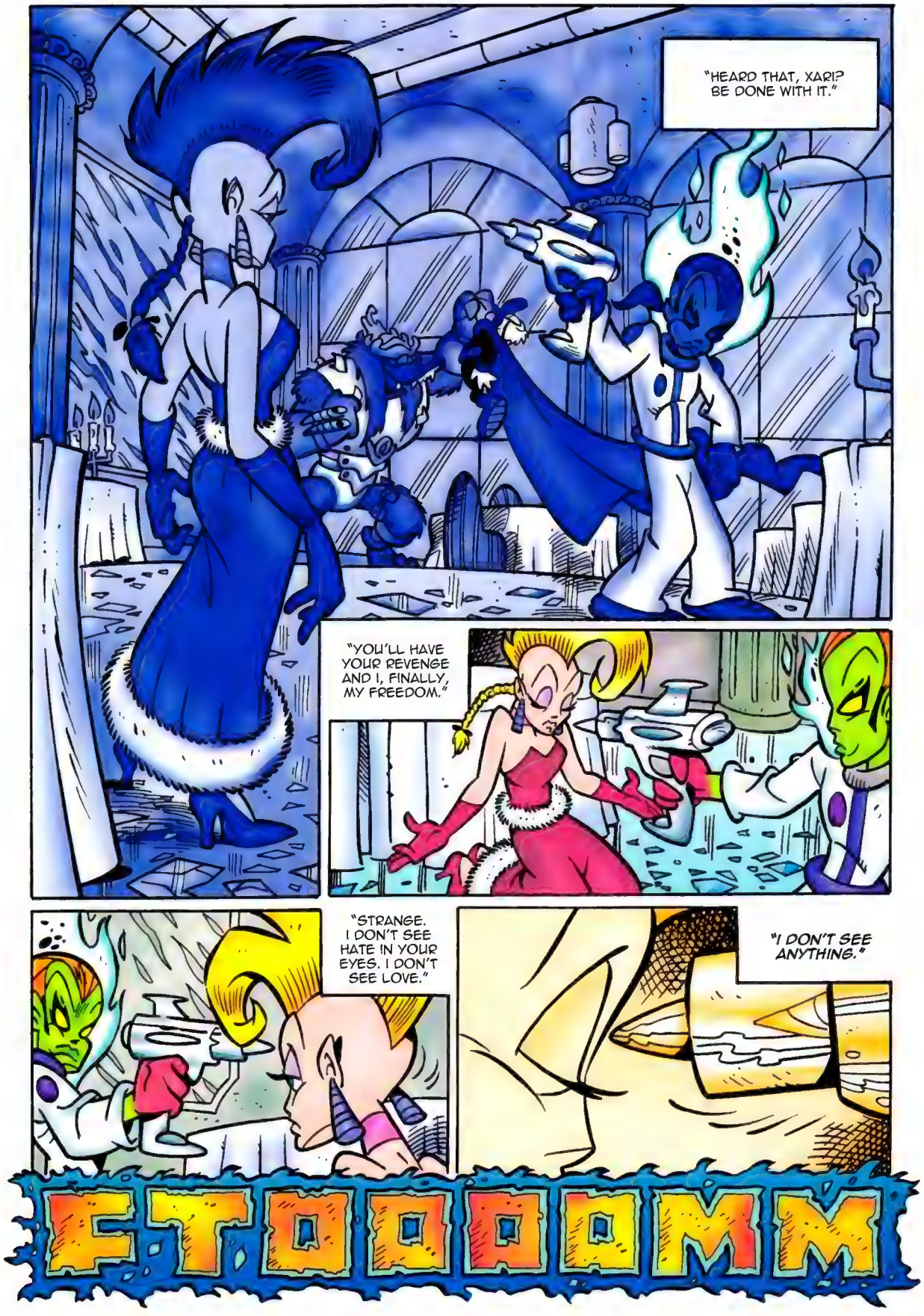
OOONE! KNOCK ONCE IF YOU'RE THERE!
VRR-RRR
AH! I MEANT JUST LIKE THAT!
HE HE! SORRY, BOYS. A FRIEND OF MINE IS REMODELING THE PREMISES AND...
TOC TOC
KRAAK
AAAH!
YAUGRRR!
GROAAARRR!
I GET IT! I DON'T HAVE A SUITABLE COSTUME FOR MAKING JOKES IN!
KRAAK
CRUNCH


RAGHORRR! ESSSCAPED!
LET HIM GO. WE HAVE SOMETHING BIGGER IN OUR PAWS.
AM I RIGHT... XADHOOM?
SAY WHAT YOU WANT, EVRONIAN LARVA.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT'S IN SOME WAY CONNECTED TO THIS COOLFLAME.
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.
NO!
THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I ALLOW MYSELF TO BRUSQUELY DISMISS HIM.
HA HA! LOOK, MY FRIEND, IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU'RE ALSO A MUTANT. JUST LIKE ME.
THINK, XADHOOM. THE TWO OF US ARE KIN: PERFECT BEINGS OF EVOLUTION. UNIQUE. ALONE.
YOU AND I, TOGETHER! EVEN EVRON WILL SUCCUMB TO OUR POWER. HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

AAARRGH!
CAN YOU USE A FORK?
GET HER!
YAGRRR!
UGRRR!
GRRRAURRR!
AH! LET GO! THIS IS NOT HOW YOU TREAT A LADY!
GRRR! YOU WANT TO JOKE AROUND, EH? LET'S LAUGH TOGETHER...
... WHEN YOUR OWN COOLFLAMED FRIEND ELIMINATES YOU!

KERASSH!
SORRY FOR THE DELAY. I LEFT THE TUXEDO AT HOME.
DUCK AVENGER!
CALM DOWN, BOYS! IS THIS THE WAY TO BEHAVE AT A GALA?
GRAOUURRR!
AGRRR!
I'LL SHOW YOU MY OWN ETIQUETTE!
YAUGRRR!
TAKE ANGUS WITH YOU, MORRIGHAN. GET TO THE ELEVATORS. QUICKLY.
YOU BET!

ONE, DO SOMETHING. I'M RUNNING OUT OF TRICKS.
WELL THEN, LEVITATE THEM IN MIDAIR.
CRACK
HEY, I'LL COMPLAIN TO THE FLOORING COMPANY!
WACK
SOCK
AND NEXT UP IS THE X-TRANS-FORMER.
GOOD ONE, EARTHLING!
WHACK
SOCK
AND WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? FIRE, MISERABLE COOLFLAME! FIRE!
AGH!
BUT NOT AS GOOD AS THIS!


"HEARD THAT, XARI? BE DONE WITH IT."
"YOU'LL HAVE YOUR REVENGE AND I, FINALLY, MY FREEDOM."
"STRANGE. I DON'T SEE HATE IN YOUR EYES. I DON'T SEE LOVE."
"I DON'T SEE ANYTHING."
FTOOOOMM

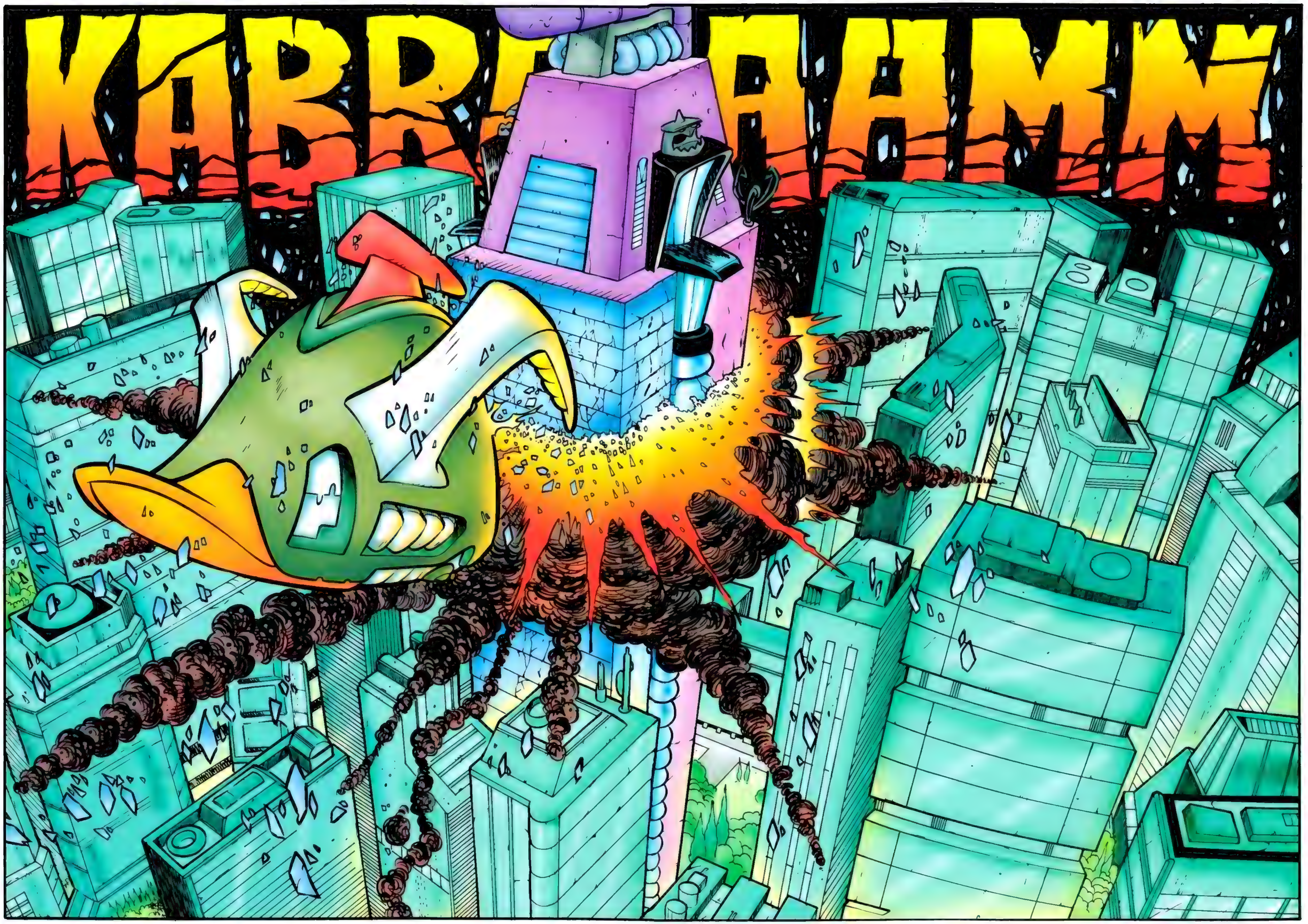
XADHOOM!
IT'S OVER, HERO.
XADHOOM...
OVER.
I SAY THAT TOO, RENEGADE.
LOCKED ME UP? TWO GUARDS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO STOP A REAL EVRONIAN.
ZORTAG! BUT I HAD...
LET'S SEE IF THIS WILL BE ENOUGH! FIRE AWAY!

WELL? WHAT'S THE MATTER? DO IT!
HA HA HA! POOR RAGHOR!
AFTER YOUR FIRST ESCAPE, I DECIDED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS. LOOK.
ZZZWWW
A BEHAVIOR INDUCTOR INSTALLED IN YOUR HELMETS, CONTROLLABLE WITH A SIMPLE REMOTE CONTROL.
LAST TIME YOU WERE SO FAST THAT I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO USE IT. BUT NOW...
NO! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THEM? THEY ARE MY SOLDIERS!
THEY CAN STILL BE EDUCATED. WHILE YOU...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. EVRON WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU.
I WAS THE ONE WHO DEFEATED XADHOOM!
DON'T WORRY, RAGHOR...
... NO ONE WILL KNOW!

T-KLANK
?
HUH? WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
I THINK I KNOW IT TOO WELL.
WHICH IS WHY I'M LEAVING!
WAIT! I'M NOT FINISHED WITH YOU!
CLUNK
GROARRR! WHAT'S HAPPEN!...
UNNNGH!

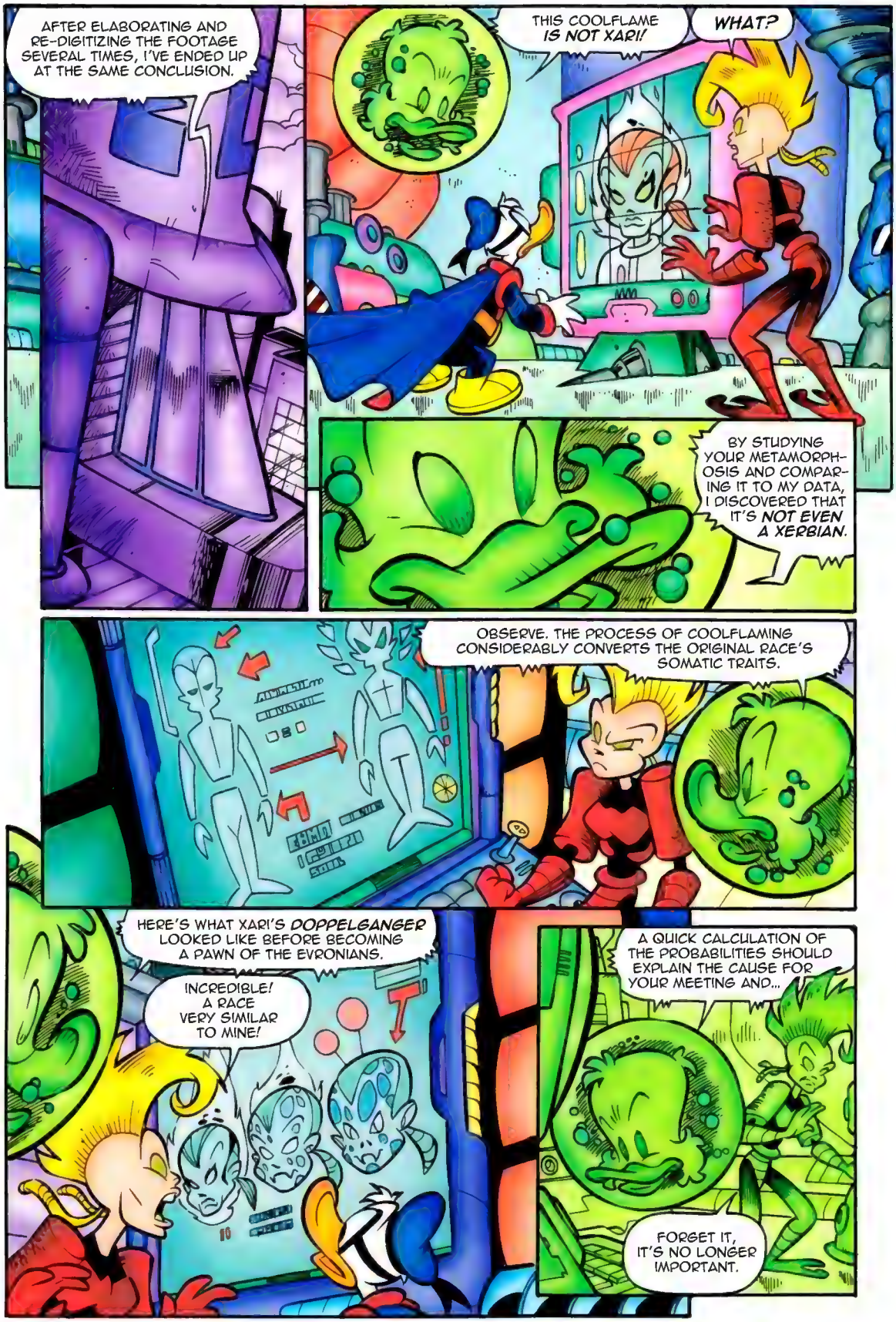
YOU? YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
SILENCE! I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
OKAY, BUT BE QUICK ABOUT IT. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
PLEASE, XARI. DON'T GET HOSTILE.
YOU HAVE JUST NEGOTIATED WITH THOSE... UNTRUSTWORTHY AND BELLIGERENT ALIENS.
IT'S CALLED *DIPLOMACY*. THE EVRONIANS *AREN'T HOSTILE*.
AS LEADER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IT'S MY DUTY TO...
YOU HAD A QUESTION FOR ME. SPILL IT AND *END THIS CONVERSATION*.

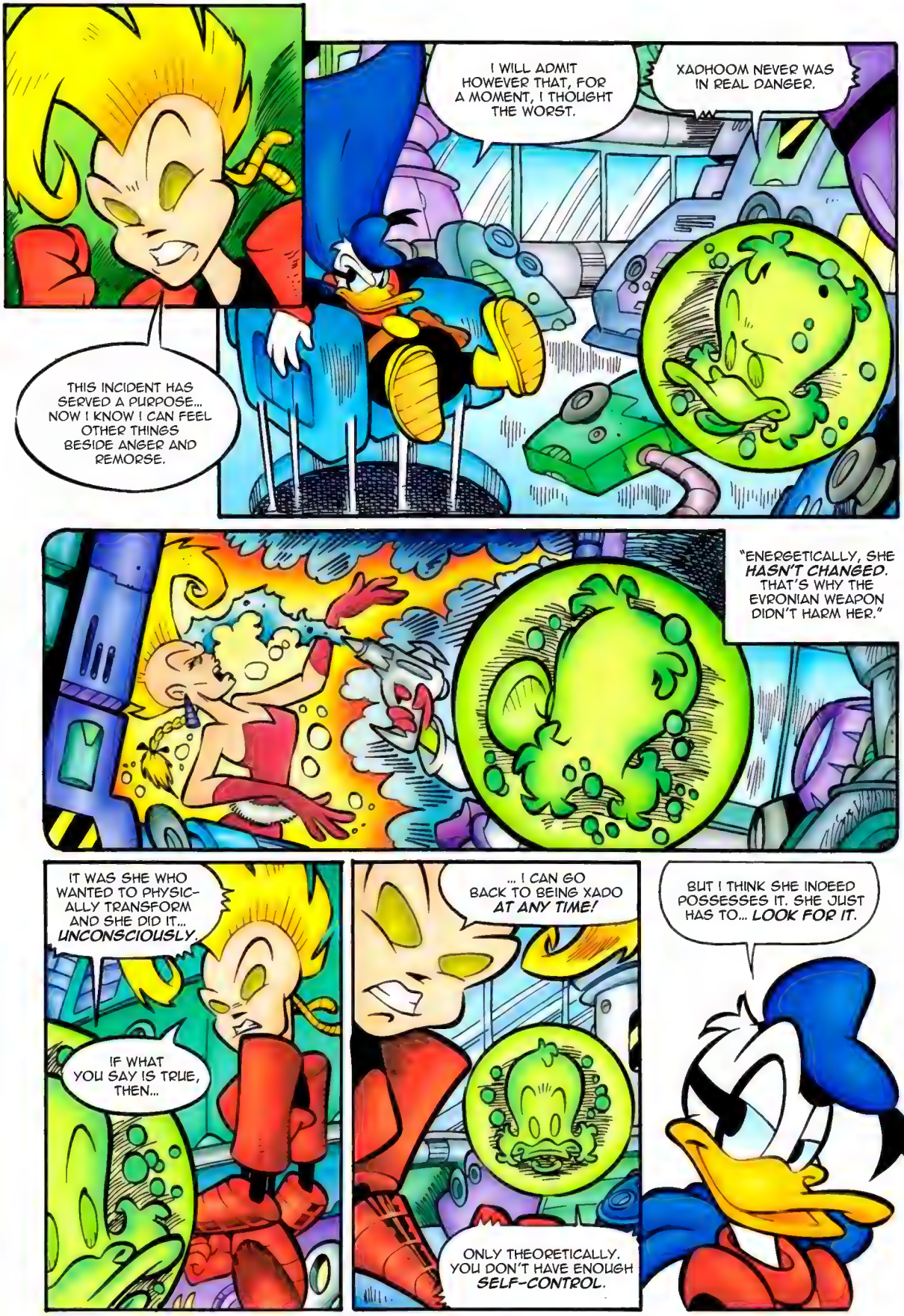
THE TWO OF US HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE BY NOW. WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE DISTANCED US.
LET'S FORGET EVERYTHING JUST FOR A MOMENT. LET'S PUT XERBA'S GREAT PROBLEMS BEHIND US.
WE ARE ON OUR FIRST DATE AND THIS ROOM...
... IS A MAGNIFICENT BALLROOM.
THE QUESTION IS... WHAT DO YOU DO IN A BALLROOM?
Y-YOU DANCE?

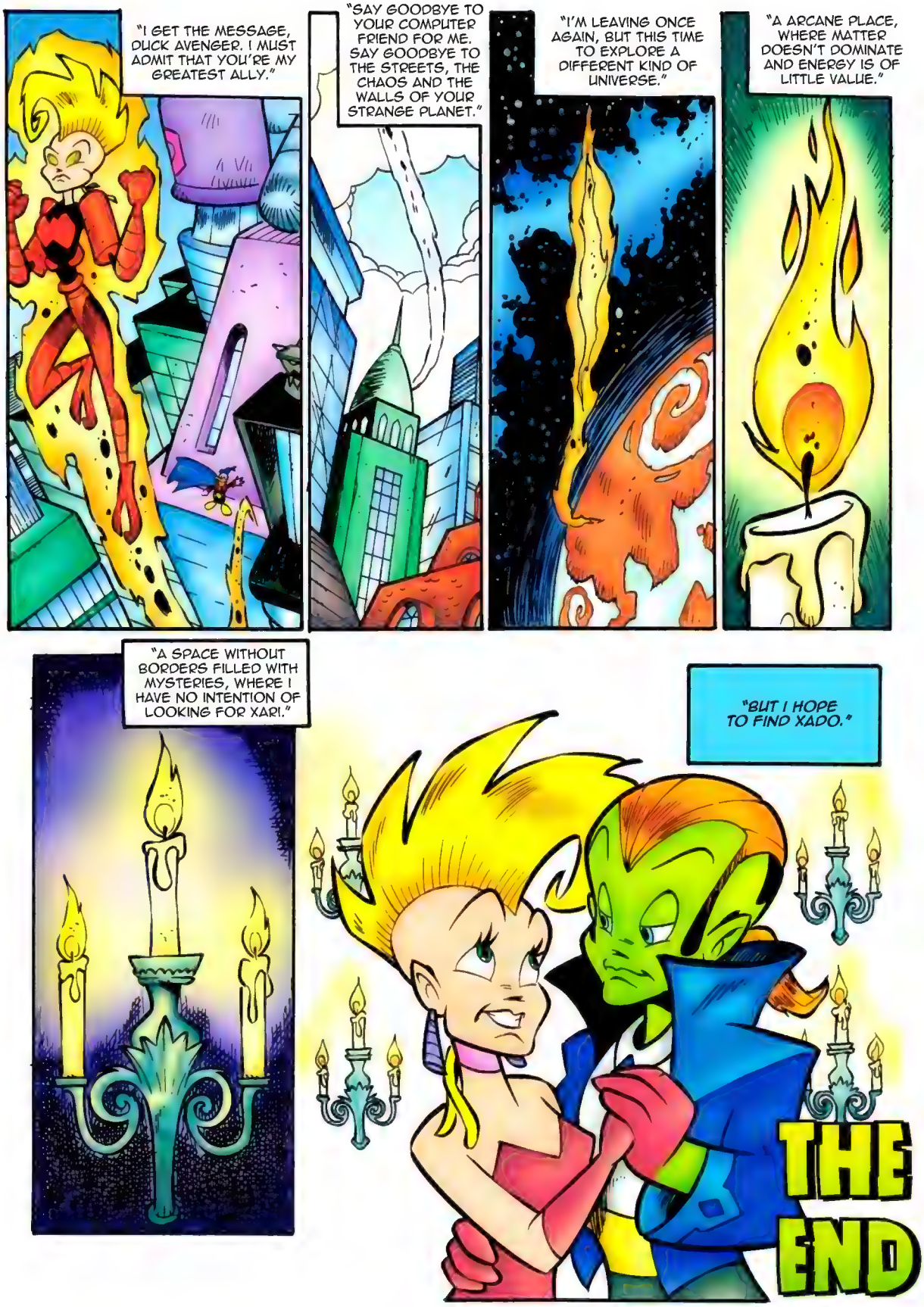

KABRAAMM

AAAH!
ZOOOO!!!NG
TAKE IT EASY, ANGUS! I'M HERE.
MORRIGHAN! WHERE AM I? HOW AM I?
YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL AND YOU'RE FINE.
FROM THIS HEADACHE, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. WHAT HAPPENED TO DOCTOR XADO?
SHE MANAGED TO GET AWAY TOO. AND SHE SENT YOU *THIS*.
OH! HOW THOUGHTFUL.
ZIP
I MUST HAVE MADE AN IMPRESSION. WATCH AND LEARN, LOSER.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! CAN YOU GUESS WHO WON THE AWARD FOR *BEST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR*?
YOU?
HE HE! YES SIR! AND DO YOU KNOW THE REASON?
FOR *SAVING* THE WORST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR. NAMELY...
HUH?
NURSE, THIS IS ANGUS! MY VISITOR HAS INGESTED A CACTUS!

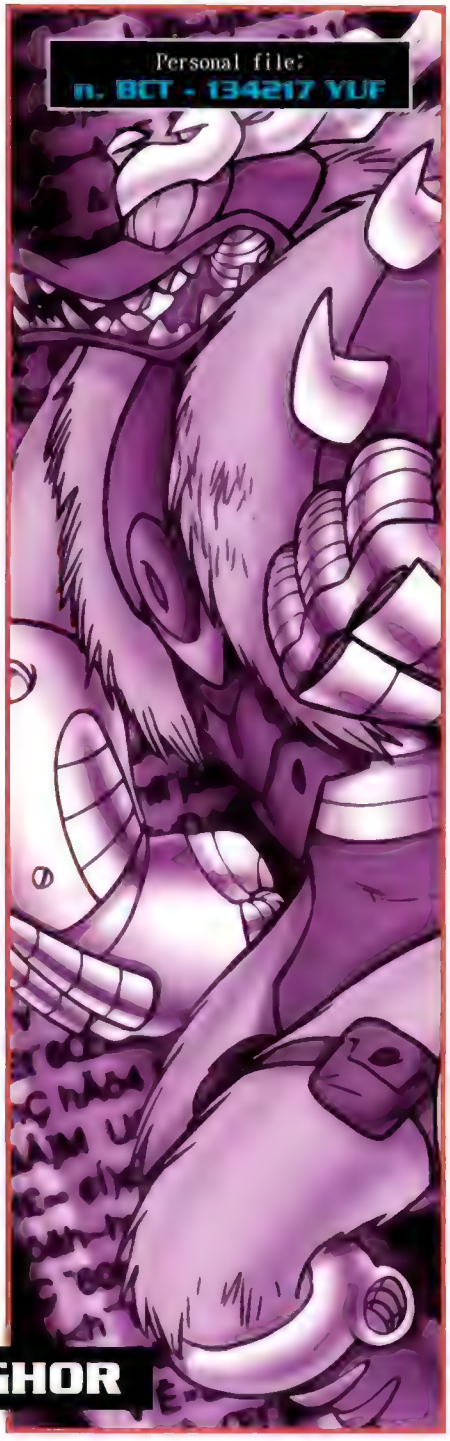
WRATH PERVADED ME ONCE AGAIN. I'M SORRY.
OH, IT'S OKAY. THE FIREMEN HAD A GREAT TIME. THE INSURANCE WILL COVER EVERYTHING AND UNCLE SCROOGE WILL RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK.
I WAS REFERRING TO YOUR FRIEND.
WHAT DOES FOUR DESTROYED FLOORS MATTER? ONE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE EXPLOSION PRETTY WELL.
THE TRUTH IS THAT IT WAS I WHO CONTAINED IT.
SOMETHING PREVENTED ME FROM TURNING MY ANGER INTO A NOVA.
THAT SOMETHING IS CALLED SURVIVAL INSTINCT.
ONE!
GET OVER TO THE SECRET FLOOR... SO MUCH FOR XADHOOM NOT KNOWING ABOUT IT...


AFTER ELABORATING AND RE-DIGITIZING THE FOOTAGE SEVERAL TIMES, I'VE ENDED UP AT THE SAME CONCLUSION.
THIS COOLFLAME IS NOT XARI!
WHAT?
BY STUDYING YOUR METAMORPHOSIS AND COMPARING IT TO MY DATA, I DISCOVERED THAT IT'S NOT EVEN A XERBIAN.
OBSERVE. THE PROCESS OF COOLFLAMING CONSIDERABLY CONVERTS THE ORIGINAL RACE'S SOMATIC TRAITS.
HERE'S WHAT XARI'S DOPPELGANGER LOOKED LIKE BEFORE BECOMING A PAWN OF THE EVRONIANS.
INCREDIBLE! A RACE VERY SIMILAR TO MINE!
A QUICK CALCULATION OF THE PROBABILITIES SHOULD EXPLAIN THE CAUSE FOR YOUR MEETING AND...
FORGET IT, IT'S NO LONGER IMPORTANT.


I WILL ADMIT HOWEVER THAT, FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT THE WORST.
XADHOOM NEVER WAS IN REAL DANGER.
THIS INCIDENT HAS SERVED A PURPOSE... NOW I KNOW I CAN FEEL OTHER THINGS BESIDE ANGER AND REMORSE.
"ENERGETICALLY, SHE *HASN'T CHANGED*. THAT'S WHY THE EVRONIAN WEAPON DIDN'T HARM HER."
IT WAS SHE WHO WANTED TO PHYSICALLY TRANSFORM AND SHE DID IT... *UNCONSCIOUSLY*.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THEN...
... I CAN GO BACK TO BEING XADO *AT ANY TIME!*
ONLY THEORETICALLY. YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH *SELF-CONTROL*.
BUT I THINK SHE INDEED POSSESSES IT. SHE JUST HAS TO... *LOOK FOR IT*.


"I GET THE MESSAGE, DUCK AVENGER. I MUST ADMIT THAT YOU'RE MY GREATEST ALLY."
"SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR COMPUTER FRIEND FOR ME. SAY GOODBYE TO THE STREETS, THE CHAOS AND THE WALLS OF YOUR STRANGE PLANET."
"I'M LEAVING ONCE AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME TO EXPLORE A DIFFERENT KIND OF UNIVERSE."
"A ARCANE PLACE, WHERE MATTER DOESN'T DOMINATE AND ENERGY IS OF LITTLE VALUE."
"A SPACE WITHOUT BORDERS FILLED WITH MYSTERIES, WHERE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOOKING FOR XARI."
"BUT I HOPE TO FIND XADO."
THE END

Bestial!



Subject: Raghor
Rank and role: Commander of special invasion forces
Deployment: sixth evronian contingent in control over planet earth, in geostationary orbit; platoon XXIII
Original provenance: Evron's sixth satellite. Center of research and genetic military experiments
Specialization: guerrilla hand to hand tactics, tactical organization, construction and use of weapons from medium to high potential, training of recruits
Physique: massive muscular hybrid (evronian/rangarian), mutating. Hair on 86% of the body
Appearance: animal like. Deformed head. Sixteen eyes. Fangs hooked up to a regrowth factor. Serrated claws, deltoids and hypertrophied forearms
Character: irascible, sullen. Devoid of self-control and disobedient
Intelligence quotient: unclassifiable, but very high
Vocal tone: harsh and authoritative
Catchphrase: "Suck up all the emotions!"
Strength: is a merciless weapon of war
Weakness: a boundless ambition

PROJECT

GENETICS

MUTATION

Continuing in the wake of the now mythical project "abomination", scientists of the Evronian Genetics Department have developed a new manipulation system, applicable to cultured spores during the first stage of development. In this stage, it is in fact still possible to change parts of the genetic code possessed by the cells and thereby create new, interesting species.

Specifically: Experiment 789000, conducted on over two and a half billion spore samples, has allowed us to obtain thirty-two nearly healthy subjects. These are evronian "rangarites", derived from insertion of the genetic code possessed by "Beasts of Rangarr". The new evronian rangarites shows all of the valued capabilities of Evron's best soldiers (acuity and manual abilities), but also new characteristics typical of alien animals. despite the scarce value from an emotional standpoint, these animals have in fact presented interesting physical skills.

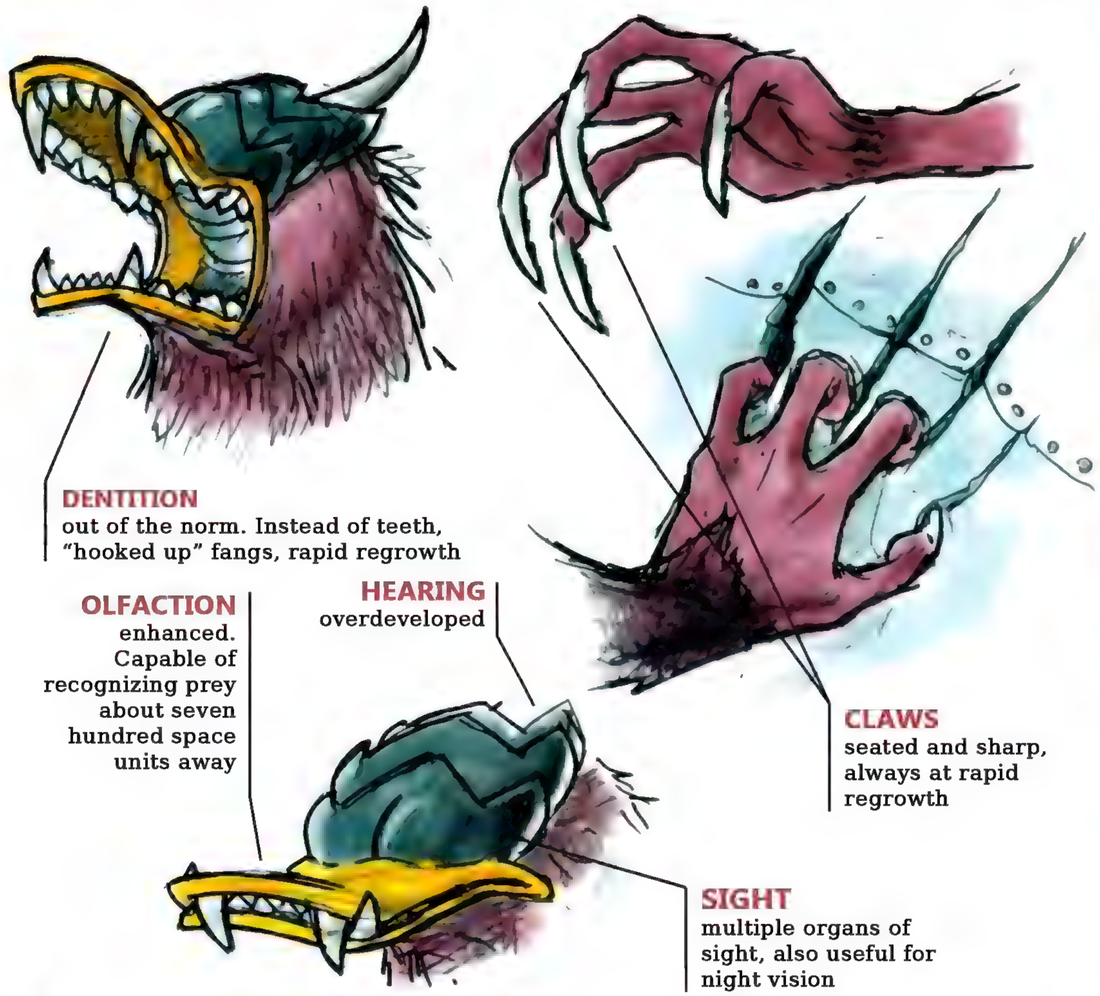
MUSCULAR STRENGTH
significantly developed, compared to the average of Evron
RESISTANCE
to toxins, to high voltages, to burns, to radiation, to high and low pressure
RESISTANCE
to temperatures below zero, thanks to thick fur developed on 86% of the subject's body
ABILITY
enhanced. Agility above maximum levels. Excellent results were obtained in jumping and running

Instructions for use

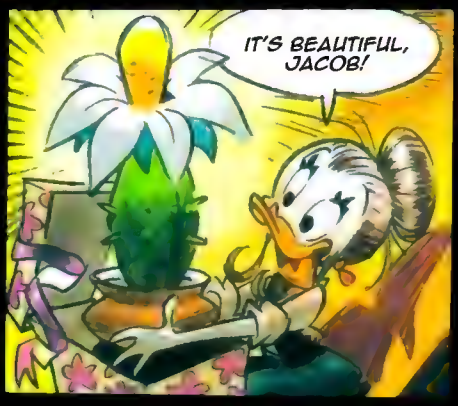
Applications:
the new species has been designed for use in all types of conquest, but are particularly suitable for sabotage and elimination from a distance. Also great for extreme missions. Not suited for military parades

Defects:
the new species has appetite twice as big as normal and a limited capacity for obedience. Blindly follows the orders of a single leader of the same race, therefore it is recommended to regulate the reactions of officers supplied with genetically modified contingents.

Effects:
because of the accelerated cellular growth, this new species tends to age prematurely. We recommend using it within the expiration date.


DENTITION
out of the norm. Instead of teeth, "hooked up" fangs, rapid regrowth
OLFACTION
enhanced. Capable of recognizing prey about seven hundred space units away
HEARING
overdeveloped
CLAWS
seated and sharp, always at rapid regrowth
SIGHT
multiple organs of sight, also useful for night vision

Lethal species

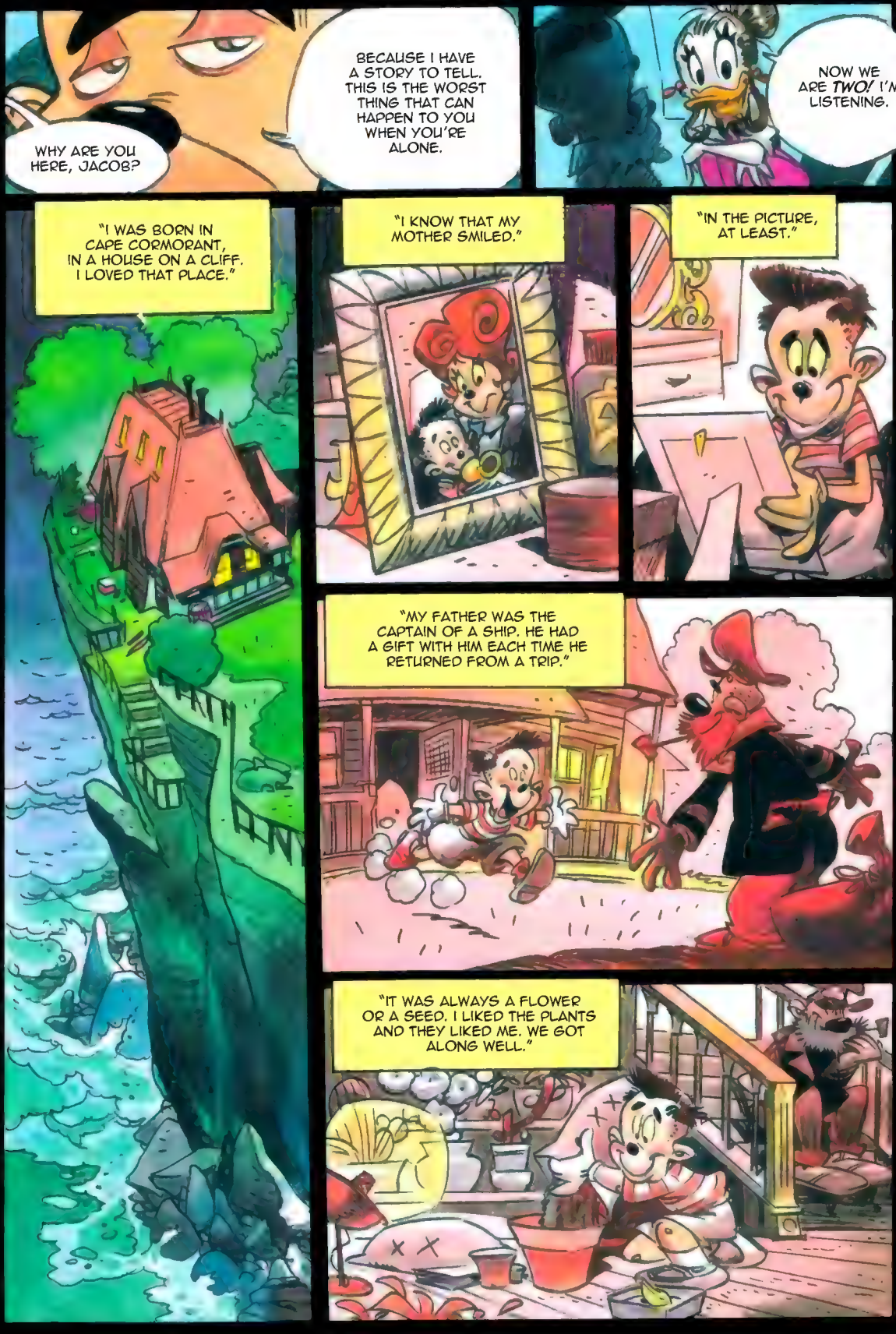


5Y

THE TREE of JACOB

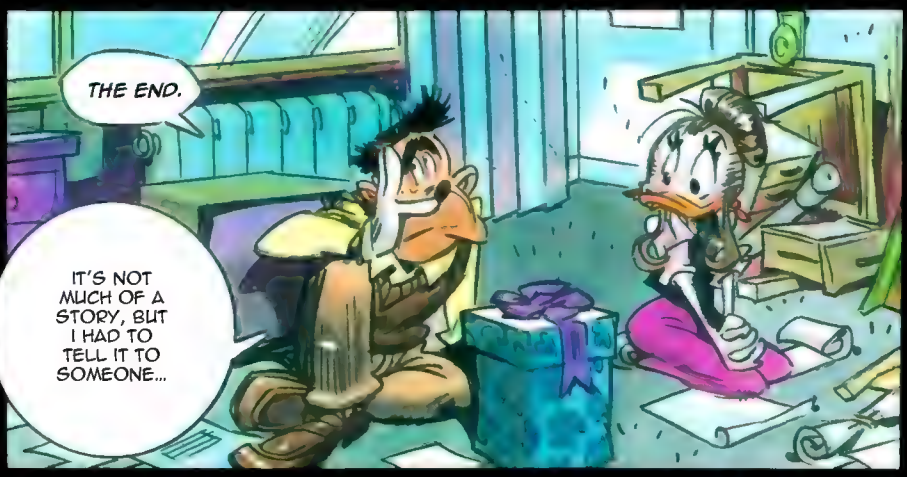
I HAVE TO GIVE THIS TO MISS LYLA LAY.
MISS LAY IS NOT HERE RIGHT NOW. I'LL GIVE IT TO HER WHEN SHE RETURNS.
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS. I'LL WAIT HERE!
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MISS LAY?
THERE! IT'S LYLA!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LET GO OF ME!
TUMP
URGH!
CRASH
OUFF!
LYLA! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
STOP!

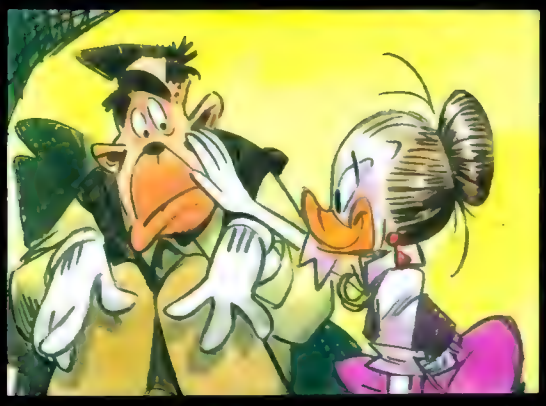
THE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS TAKEN THE JOURNALIST LYLA LAY HOSTAGE ON THE SEVENTY-FIFTH FLOOR OF DUCKLAIR TOWER IS JACOB HANNOVER...
... AN EX-CONVICT, WHO THIS MORNING BROKE INTO THE BUILDING, AFTER ASSAULTING THE SECURITY GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE...
IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!
I KNOW, BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE THE SITUATION ANY BETTER!
YOU SAID YOU HAD TO SPEAK TO ME URGENTLY, BUT WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR TWO HOURS AND YET YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD!
BUT I WROTE A LOT! FOR FIVE LONG YEARS...
JACOB HANNOVER! BUT OF COURSE! YOU'RE THAT JACOB HANNOVER! THE ADMIRER FROM GOOSEFIELD PRISON!
THE TV WAS THE ONLY COMPANY I HAD. AND YOU WERE SO NICE, SO UNDERSTANDING... SO... SO...
... HUMAN!

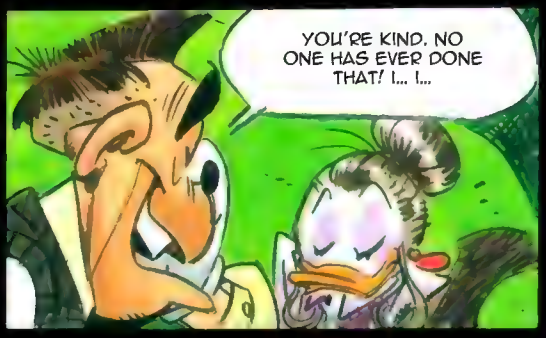

WHY ARE YOU HERE, JACOB?
BECAUSE I HAVE A STORY TO TELL. THIS IS THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE ALONE.
NOW WE ARE *TWO!* I'M LISTENING.
"I WAS BORN IN CAPE CORMORANT, IN A HOUSE ON A CLIFF. I LOVED THAT PLACE."
"I KNOW THAT MY MOTHER SMILED."
"IN THE PICTURE, AT LEAST."
"MY FATHER WAS THE CAPTAIN OF A SHIP. HE HAD A GIFT WITH HIM EACH TIME HE RETURNED FROM A TRIP."
"IT WAS ALWAYS A FLOWER OR A SEED. I LIKED THE PLANTS AND THEY LIKED ME. WE GOT ALONG WELL."

"ONE NIGHT, DAD DIDN'T COME HOME. BUT THE SAILORS BROUGHT ME HIS LAST SURPRISE..."
"IT WAS A SEED! THE BIGGEST I HAD EVER SEEN. AND THAT SEED GREW..."
"IT TOOK LONG AND TENACIOUS ROOTS. IT BECAME A SPECIAL TREE!"
I DON'T KNOW IF A TREE CAN BE A MAN'S BEST FRIEND, BUT FOR ME IT WAS...
"IT WAS THE BEST MEMORY OF MY FATHER. IT WAS ALL I HAD LEFT OF HIM. ACTUALLY, NO. HE HAD LEFT ME SOMETHING ELSE..."
"BANK DEBTS. ONE DAY SOME MEN CAME AND TOLD ME THAT I HAD TO LEAVE MY HOUSE."

I DIDN'T HAVE A DIME. BESIDES, HOW WAS I GOING TO TAKE MY TREE AWAY WITH ME?
I DECIDED TO GO TO THE BANK TO GET A LOAN! MY FATHER HAD BEEN THEIR BEST COSTUMER!
"I USED A GUN IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THEM, BUT IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA."
"I TOLD THE STORY OF MY TREE TO THE JUDGE, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T LIKE PLANTS."
IN THE PLACE OF MY HOUSE THEY BUILT A RESTAURANT THAT CLOSED DOWN ONLY ONE YEAR LATER...
YOU WENT BACK TO THE CLIFF, JACOB?
ONLY ONCE. I LOOKED FROM THE OUTSIDE OF THE PLACE AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF MY TREE.
All'Aragosta CHE RIDE


THE END.
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A STORY, BUT I HAD TO TELL IT TO SOMEONE...




YOU'RE KIND. NO ONE HAS EVER DONE THAT! I... I...

I BROUGHT YOU THIS! WHILE IN PRISON I WORKED IN A SMALL GREEN-HOUSE AND... TAKE IT!

CAN I OPEN IT?
IT'S YOURS, LYLA!

"THIS TIME THE LAW WAS MORE LENIENT WITH JACOB. KNOWING HIS STORY, I TESTIFIED IN HIS FAVOR IN COURT..."
AHH! ARAGOSTA CHE RIDE
"IT'S TRUE THAT HIS HOUSE IS NO MORE. BUT IF JACOB HAD HAD THE COURAGE TO GO OVER HERE, HE WOULD HAVE SEEN..."
COME ON, JACOB!
Sale
"IT WAS BORN FROM ROOTS THAT NEVER UPROOTED AND GREW UP WATCHING THE SEA..."

THE END

Do you know Xadhoom?

Is this mysterious alien really unknown to you?

Think you're a true pker? Think you're a true PK collector? In short: who do you think you are? Whoever you are, know that it's now time to show off your knowledge. Here are no less than 19 simple questions. There are three answer choices, so even if you don't have all of the issues, you can just check the boxes at random.

EVRONIANS (Pk#0/1)

1) The story begins "elsewhere". Can you say where?
- ❑ On Jupiter
- ❑ On Xerba
- ❑ On Earth

2) Who does the shadow belong to in page 5?
- ❑ An evronian
- ❑ Max Monteduro
- ❑ Xadhoom

XADHOOM (Pk#0/3)

3) What does our mutant feed on?
- ❑ Thermonuclear processes
- ❑ Baking soda
- ❑ Evronians

4) What's Xadhoom's catchphrase?
- ❑ Your time has expired!
- ❑ Let's dance!
- ❑ Let us make peace!

5) What does "Xadhoom" mean in xerbian?
- ❑ Creditor
- ❑ Debtor
- ❑ Tractor

6) What does Xadhoom become when she her loses patience?
- ❑ A nova
- ❑ Old
- ❑ A pain in the ass

SHADOWS ON VENUS (Pk#1)

7) Does Xadhoom and One know each other?
- ❑ No
- ❑ Yes
- ❑ Dunno!

8) Inside of the evronian star cruiser, the alien meets someone. Who?
- ❑ The conductor
- ❑ A parking officer
- ❑ One of her kinsmen

SPORES (Pk#6)

9) What's the name of the xerbian ship Xadhoom finds?
- ❑ Xabra
- ❑ Xadabra
- ❑ Ximxalabim

10) Hoes does the xerbian help the Duck Avenger?
- ❑ By burning spores
- ❑ By burning the evronians
- ❑ By burning the midnight oil

MISSING (1997 Special)

11) In the episode dedicated to her, what does Xadhoom ask for from her kin?
- ❑ A favorable rate
- ❑ Baking soda
- ❑ A Xarghon

FOUNTAINS OF THE MOON (Pk#9)

12) How's the relationship between Xadhoom and One?
- ❑ Professional
- ❑ Good friends
- ❑ Ignorant of each other

13) How many ships left from Xerba?
- ❑ One
- ❑ Two
- ❑ Three

SHOOTING STAR (Pk#17)

14) What's the nickname the Duck Avenger gives to his alien ally?
- ❑ Raviolita
- ❑ Beauty eyes
- ❑ Longhair

15) How does Xadhoom thank the Duck Avenger?
- ❑ With a high voltage discharge
- ❑ With a kiss
- ❑ With a kick

ABSOLUTE ZERO (Pk#19)

16) How many appearances does Xadhoom make?
- ❑ None
- ❑ Three
- ❑ One

17) What's the name of the other starship Xadhoom finds?
- ❑ Xerberican
- ❑ Titanica
- ❑ Antra

METAMORPHOSIS (Pk#28)

18) What happens to the alien in shock?
- ❑ She starts molting
- ❑ She starts sloughing
- ❑ She starts shedding

19) Why doesn't the quiz have twenty questions?
- ❑ Beats me
- ❑ I don't know
- ❑ No clue

ANSWER SHEET

1 ❑ ❑ ❑	6 ❑ ❑ ❑	11 ❑ ❑ ❑	16 ❑ ❑ ❑
2 ❑ ❑ ❑	7 ❑ ❑ ❑	12 ❑ ❑ ❑	17 ❑ ❑ ❑
3 ❑ ❑ ❑	8 ❑ ❑ ❑	13 ❑ ❑ ❑	18 ❑ ❑ ❑
4 ❑ ❑ ❑	9 ❑ ❑ ❑	14 ❑ ❑ ❑	19 ❑ ❑ ❑
5 ❑ ❑ ❑	10 ❑ ❑ ❑	15 ❑ ❑ ❑	

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